BAD METAL SILVER

50c to S$1

Circulating Contemporary Counterfeit
United States Coins

Copy Number ____ of 500

Winston S. Zack

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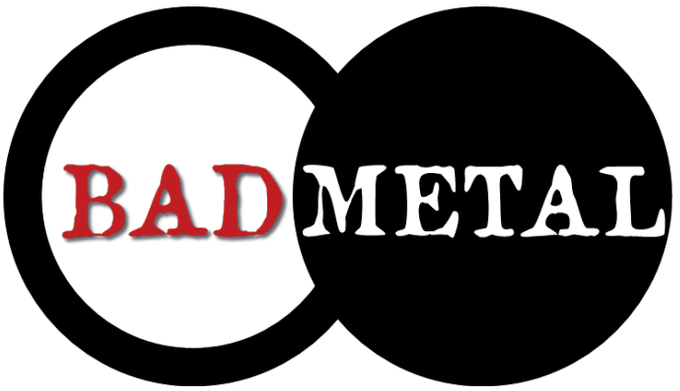
Foreword By
Keith Davignon

Edited By
Dennis Wierzba, Jesse Patrick, Louis Scuderi



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Caveat: The value, population, and rarity estimates, and related information is subject to change based on demand, popularity, census information, strength of the numismatic market, economic conditions, differences of opinion, and potentially changes in the law.

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Dedicated to:

Keith Davignon and Larry Schmidt

Your groundbreaking efforts to research, document and educate the numismatic community on contemporary counterfeit Capped Bust half dollars inspired me and many others to be interested in this understudied area of U.S. numismatics.

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*It was not my intention to leave out anyone who contributed to the first volume of this project. This was a long and complex project, which involved many people. I apologize in advance if I did not properly give you credit. I would appreciate being informed of any omission so as to acknowledge your participation in follow-up volumes.

FOREWORD

By
Keith Davignon

As the hobby of numismatics has grown over the last century and a half, collectors and dealers have come across these oddities, these "fakes" of the coins we love to collect, with enough frequency to testify to the prolificacy of early counterfeiters.

Until recently, as members of the collecting community discovered such items, they were typically put aside as curiosities, show and tell pieces, or thrown into dealer junk boxes. Those few of us who attempted to collect them had no idea of how many were out there, where they had come from, or whether they were even legal to possess.

Following in the footsteps of Sheldon, Browning, Overton, Rulau, and other numismatic pioneers, Winston Zack has put both his curiosity and considerable research skills to work in an attempt to answer as many of these questions as possible, and provide today's collector with historical context, clarification of legal concerns, and even a "catalog" of the currently known contemporary counterfeits.

This volume, number three in an ambitious four part series, covering half dollars and dollars, greatly expands both the historical background and the catalog I initiated in the 1990's, and goes way beyond Capped Bust Half Dollars into all types and series of those denominations with fascinating newspaper accounts of counterfeiters who were caught in the act, and wonderful color photographs of all currently known varieties of contemporary bogus half dollars and dollars. We are treated to the fascinating story of the earliest known contemporary U.S. counterfeit half dollars, the "First Family", 1787, 1878, and 1887 Flowing Hair halves, and shown numerous contemporary news accounts of counterfeiting operations uncovered over the years.

Winston tackles the question of which of these operations produced which fakes, by looking beyond a comparison of basic visual similarities to a closer study of punches and edge dies to group seemingly unrelated bogus coins into "Families", linking multiple different specimens to their common author, giving us a much better picture of which examples were perhaps one of a kind, made in someone's basement, and which were part of more sophisticated, prolific counterfeiting undertakings.

Through his efforts, Winston has taken the subject of contemporary counterfeit U.S. coins out of the dealer junk boxes into the realm of legitimate numismatic study and collectability. What were previously looked at with disdain, are becoming recognized as a sort of criminal folk art, with a loyal following of collectors, who finally have the references they need to pursue this captivating sidebar to traditional numismatics.

PREFACE

When I started this *Bad Metal* project in 2013, one of my primary inspirations were Keith Davignon's books, ***Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollars***. I was fascinated by the scope of how many counterfeit CBH varieties were made in a relatively short period of time, something that paralleled my research on counterfeit 3cS varieties from a few years earlier. I knew there was much more to learn about this subject and I could not wait to immerse myself further.

Since then, I have actively and intensively studied, researched, and published on counterfeit CBHs, starting with collaborative submissions to Larry Schmidt to post on cccbhcc.com. This research has been and continues to be fun and adventurous. It is an honor to share this compendium of information with the broader numismatic community in this volume.

I anticipate this book will not be without some controversy. For example, it was recommended and I was asked not to create a new classification system for counterfeit CBHs after Davignon. I weighed the pros and cons in association with the structure of my research goals. Ultimately, reclassifying the counterfeit CBH varieties was the correct choice for purposes of my research goals and objectives, and I have made every effort to cross-reference those Zack variety designations to Davignon varieties and other documented publications.

This is the 3rd book in the 4-part series documenting contemporary counterfeit U.S. coins made with the intent of circulating in commerce. My first ***Bad Metal*** book anticipated combining all the silver denominations and counterfeit coin varieties into one book. However, that idea was amended since it would have resulted in an impractically large book, and the content had to be roughly divided in half, and thus two books.

Bad Metal Silver. 50c and Silver Dollars documents some 528 die struck counterfeit half dollar and silver dollar varieties. This is more than half of the 1,033 currently documented die struck counterfeit varieties. This includes 470 half dollar and 58 silver dollar varieties. CBHs alone account for 368 of the 470 half dollar varieties. The balance include 6 Flowing Hair and 4 Draped Bust varieties, along with 54 Seated, 26 Barber, and 12 Walking Liberty halves, quantities that are strong compared to their respective smaller denomination types from the same time periods. Franklin and Kennedy halves were not included in this book because only cast counterfeits are known.

Among the counterfeit silver dollars, the most unexpected result was documenting 15 hand-made die Morgan dollar varieties. When I started this project in 2013, I never heard of those pieces existing, and I was not aware that anyone had researched or published anything on such pieces. Nearly all the published information on contemporary counterfeit Morgan dollars were the *Micro O* family of transfer die varieties.

Bad Metal Silver. 50c and Silver Dollars carries forward the same research goals and objectives illustrated in the Preface of *Bad* ***Metal. Copper and Nickel.*** Yet, the results herein are unique from these two prior publications. Notably, I have yet to identify who was responsible for making any of the die struck counterfeit half dollars and silver dollars documented. In some cases I get close, but not close enough to identifying a counterfeiter. What I have learned over these past 11 years is that such results will be the exception, not the rule.

I will happily admit that the passion and effort I put into this book surpasses the effort from each of the two previous ***Bad Metal*** publications. This book took me a long time to complete for that very reason. I wanted this book to be as complete as reasonably possible. As a result, this book is by far my best numismatic research to date and something I am so incredibly proud to share with the numismatic community.

This publication is not complete nor the end. It is merely a large leap forward in the study of contemporary counterfeit CBHs from where Keith Davignon left off, and a solid start for the other half dollar and silver dollar series. I will

continue to collect and document new information about varieties as they become available. This will help fill the outstanding research gaps and paint a more complete picture of this subject over time.

Credits

Numismatic research such as this is a long-term, team effort. The list of those who have supported this project is on display in the preceding *Contributors* section. However, significant impacts and contributions were made by the following individuals leading to the completeness of this publication: Larry Schmidt, Mark Glazer, Dennis Wierzba, Jesse Patrick, David Kahn, Keith Davignon, Todd Pollock, and Lance Keigwin. In particular, Mark, Dennis, and Jesse provided a large quantity of the varieties and images herein resulting in a high-quality publication that is immensely more complete than I could compile without their efforts. Thank you to all those involved in this publication, I am so grateful for your participation and passion for this numismatic subject to illustrate this part of U.S. history.

Book 1: Copper and Nickel

The first ***Bad Metal*** book in this series was a massive success. To date, more than 600 copies have sold, and that book won the prestigious *Numismatic Literary Guild Best Specialized Book* in 2020. I learned a lot about this subject as a result of that publication. For example, my editors copy has loads of notes, tabs, and page inserts where there is new or updated information.

Since this book was published, only a few new varieties have been documented. Those new varieties include three Indian Head cents, including NDR Z1-D, and 1887 TD.1-TD.C and 1888 TD.1-TD.A, the latter of which should have been published but got missed amongst my files.

For five cent nickels, only one new variety has been confirmed, the Liberty nickel 1908 Z1-C. Furthermore, the Liberty nickel 1883 Z1-A has been removed as a variety. In addition, I have been told of other potential new Buffalo nickel varieties that exist but I have not seen photos of them to verify their existence.

Joe Cronin has also authored a detailed publication on Henning nickels, The ***Henning Nickels Collectors' Guide***, massively improving the information in that arena. On the subject of Henning nickels, their collectability has skyrocketed since both my and Joe's books. When ***Bad Metal*** was first published, a common 1944 Henning nickel could still be acquired for $30-50. Today they have sold for as much as $600-700 each, with a typical sale in the $250-350 range.

Book 2: Silver 3cS to 25c

The second ***Bad Metal*** book in this series published in 2022 has had similar success to the first book in this series. More than 250 copies have sold to date with new research and documented contemporary counterfeit varieties being catalogued since then.

Since this book was published, more than 30 new die struck counterfeit varieties have been documented and confirmed. For three-cent silver pieces, this includes at least one new hand-made die variety, NDR Z8-AI, a potential new hand-made die variety yet to be confirmed, and revising NDR Z1-U to 1852 Z2-U.

For Seated dimes, this includes 1874 Z1-U, 1857 Z4-AQ, 1859 Z2-AT, 1862 Z1-AR, 1862 Z2-AS, 1877 TD.2-TD.AF. For Barber dimes there is 1890 Z1-Y, 1902 Z9-L, 1909 TD.2-TD.L, 1911-S TD.2-TD.J, 1913 TD.1-TD.K, and NDR TD.1-TD.M.

Among Seated quarters, this includes 1876 TD.2-TD.P and 1877 TD.1-TD.Q. For Barber quarters, six new transfer die varieties were documented, including 1899 TD.1-TD.F, 1904 TD.1-TD.E, 1906-D TD.1-TD.G, 1911-D TD.1-TD.D, 1915 TD.1-TD.H, and 1916-D TD.1-TD.I. Finally, we added a new Washington quarter variety, 1936 TD.1-TD.B struck on a billon planchet.

Book 4: Gold

The forth and final book in this specific series will cover all contemporary counterfeit die struck and some cast U.S. federal gold coins, Bechtler gold counterfeits, and there will be an appendix on counterfeit U.S. coin detector devices and scales from the 19th century. This publication has been casually drafted over the preceding years, and I cannot wait to devote more research efforts into this subject.

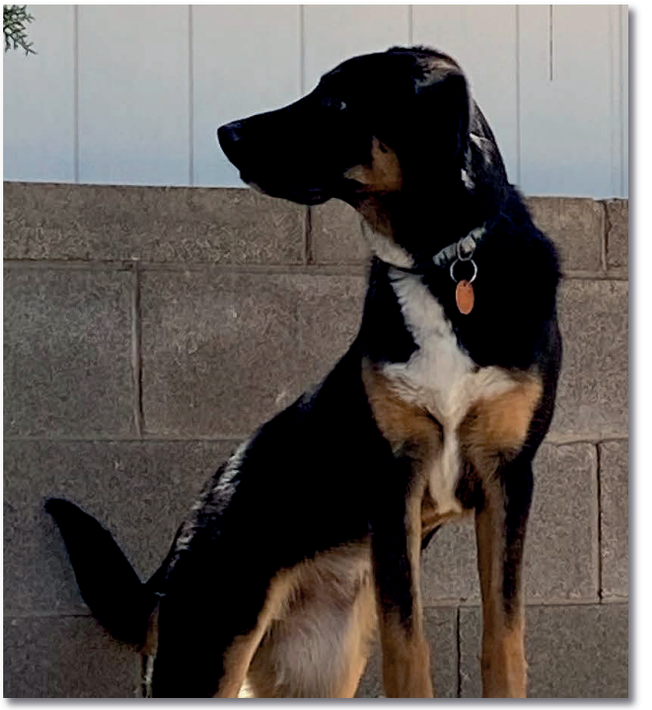
Other Updates

Thanks to the Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society Grant, I was able to complete additional XRF analysis across all documented die struck contemporary counterfeit U.S. coin varieties. Thus far, I have XRF analyzed 837 of the 1,033 (81.1%), a significant 15% increase in this overall analysis effort prior to this grant. Progress will continue into the future as additional varieties become available for XRF study.

Within this publication, I have been able to XRF analyze 83.6% of the 528 total varieties. More significantly, 87% of the die struck counterfeit CBH varieties have been XRF analyzed, which is truly an amazing accomplishment given how rare many of those varieties are.

The 'Glossary of terms and abbreviations' section has been removed from this book. Readers can reference the two previous ***Bad Metal*** publications for this information. New terms and abbreviations may be separately identified and defined herein.

Finally, my 3.5-year-old dog Hank, shown to the right, has supported me and this publication with the appreciation of many treats, enjoyment of regular walks, exploration during numerous hikes, and a lot of play time with his countless friends.



1

Half Dollars

Flowing Hair & Draped Bust

Authentic Coin Overview

1794-1807 • Philadelphia Mint

From 1794 to 1795 the first half dollars were minted bearing the obverse design of Liberty facing right with flowing hair behind. The reverse had a wreath encompassing a small eagle and lettering around the border. The first delivery was in October 1794, more than two-and-a-half years after they were authorized to be coined by the Act of April 2, 1792. Mintages of 1794 half dollar were small given the limited time they were minted that year. Only 23,464 1794 half dollars were reported and estimated to be minted; the second delivery of 18,164 half dollars was made on February 4, 1795 and may have consisted of some pieces dated 1795 (Overton 1990).

By 1795, the Philadelphia Mint was resolving their coining, striking and employee problems, and fairly soon silver and gold coin mintages improved. A total of 299,680 1795 half dollars were reported struck. They were last coined and delivered in June of 1795 in order to strike silver dollars and gold coins. A total of 323,144 half dollars were struck by that time. This was apparently enough to meet public demand, and there were no requests for more half dollars until 1797.

The half dollar design changed between 1796 and 1797. Liberty now had a draped bust and the reverse had a similar small eagle but its wings had shrunk and its head was higher. Half dollars dated 1796 and 1797 were both coined in the first-half of 1797; the 1796 dies were prepared in 1796 but were never used, and were subsequently incorporated into the production of 1797-dated pieces that same year. Only 3,918 pieces were struck from both dated dies and an estimated five percent of that mintage survives to this day.

No half dollars were coined from 1798 to 1800. Reduced public demand and politics played contributing roles during these years.

By 1801 half dollars were again being coined, albeit in fairly small quantities. The obverse design stayed largely unchanged, but the reverse depicted a heraldic eagle. In 1801 30,289 pieces were minted and in 1802 29,890 were struck. With mintages of the dollar coming to an end in 1803, the Mint focused more on half dollar production evident by the 188,234 half dollars struck that year.

No half dollars were minted with the date 1804 even though at least one obverse die bearing that date had been prepared. The 1804 obverse die was subsequently repurposed the following year when a 5 was punched over the 4; a second 1804 obverse die may have been made in 1805 by mistake and a 5 repunched over the 4 to hide the error (Tompkins 2015).

The steady and increased production of half dollars continued. In 1805, 211,722 were reported minted, another 839,576 were coined in 1806 and in 1807 301,076 were reported; later in 1807 the design changed to the Capped Bust design.

Flowing Hair, Small Eagle (1794-1795)

Draped Bust, Small Eagle (1796-1797)

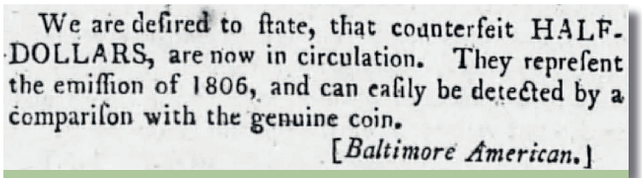
Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle (1801-1807)

The Counterfeiters

Counterfeit American Money—There are several counterfeit Eagles in circulation. They are nothing more than American half dollars, double gilt, but the deception may, very easily be detected by this unerring mark: Upon the Eagles, the head of Liberty wears the emblematical cap, while the counterfeit have, simply, loose flowing hair, without a cap. The Counterfeit Eagle which we have seen, represent the emission 1805.—Char. Cou.
Concord Gazette, June 9, 1807.

Across the spectrum of U.S. coinage, no other denomination has been so heavily and continuously counterfeited as the half dollar. While half dollars were one of the first U.S. coins to be counterfeited they were not heavily faked until the Capped Bust design was introduced in 1807.

No documented newspaper reports were found of counterfeit Flowing Hair half dollars in circulation, and the only definitive report of counterfeit Draped Bust half dollars (DBH) comes from the April 8, 1807 *Aurora General Advertiser* of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and the *Baltimore American*, reproduced verbatim in the *Maryland Gazette* a day later.


We are deſired to ſtate, that counterfeit HALF-DOLLARS, are now in circulation. They repreſent the emiſſion of 1806, and can eaſily be detected by a compariſon with the genuine coin.
[*Baltimore American.*]

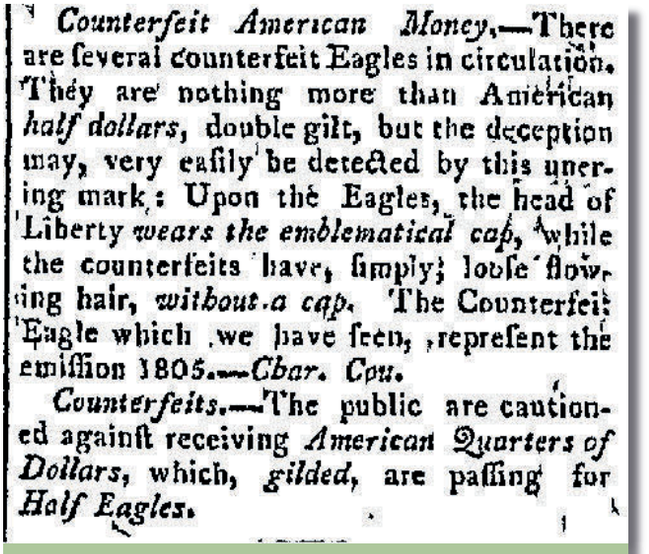
Maryland Gazette. April 9, 1807.

The description of this counterfeit is rather vague, which was not unusual for the time. Potentially, the phrase "*….can easily be detected by a compari[s]on with the genuine coin*." meant that the counterfeit was cast and therefore light in weight; a cast counterfeit 1806 DBH is shown at the end of this section. This report may have been an isolated and/or local case since no other accounts discuss these pieces in circulation.

While the April 1807 reports are the only definitive newspaper accounts of counterfeit DBHs in circulation, there does exist an erroneously-dated DBH counterfeit with an 1809 date which is associated with the *Evasion* family. Such a date suggests that these counterfeits were made on or after 1809.

Another counterfeiting scheme conducted at this time was to gilt American half dollars and quarters in an attempt to pass them off as Eagles and Half-Eagles. The earliest found report of this fraud comes from the June 9, 1807 *Concord Gazette* (below). A similar report is found in the January 5, 1818 edition of the *Lancaster Intelligencer*.

Newspaper reports alone do not identify all incidents of U.S. coin counterfeiting. In some cases, counterfeit coins were documented by individual notes. In other areas, counterfeiting was documented in local or regional reports. While in other cases historical court documents can be found detailing specific incidents of the arrest of suspected or convicted counterfeiters. One particular Flowing Hair half dollar counterfeit dated 1787 was documented by a short note on a small piece of paper which was dated May 19, 1813. An in-depth discussion of this piece, and the other pieces which were made by the same counterfeiter, follows.


Counterfeit American Money.—There are ſeveral counterfeit Eagles in circulation. They are nothing more than American *half dollars*, double gilt, but the deception may, very eaſily be detected by this unerring mark: Upon the Eagles, the head of Liberty *wears the emblematical cap*, while the counterfeits have, ſimply, looſe flowing hair, *without a cap*. The Counterfeit Eagle which we have ſeen, repreſent the emiſſion 1805.—*Char. Cou.*

Counterfeits.—The public are cautioned againſt receiving *American Quarters of Dollars*, which, *gilded*, are paſſing for *Half Eagles*.

Concord Gazette. June 9, 1807.

The First Family

1787, 1878, and 1887 Flowing Hair Half Dollars

By Winston Zack, John Kleeberg, and Dennis Wierzba

Introduction

The earliest documented counterfeit half dollars consist of six different erroneously dated, 1787, 1878, and 1887 Flowing Hair-style varieties all made by the same counterfeiter. These enigmatic pieces have been known since at least 1813. However, their origin continues to elude historians after more than two centuries.

Historical Record

The earliest contemporary historical evidence found for the existence of these imitations is traced to an apparently poorly written letter in which was wrapped a high-grade 1787 piece with the initials 'IC' (or 'JC') inscribed in the left obverse field. The original letter was lost or misplaced by an auction company, but not before attempts were made to decipher it by John J. Ford (1950), later described in Kleeberg (2000). A revised interpretation of this letter follows based on a combination of historical census records, as well as genealogical and geographic research of the people mentioned.

> *Lempster Wednesday, May 19th 1813 – this day rec'd of John Cram of Unity, one half dollar piece – of the United States Coin dated 1787 – and inclosed the same within this paper – Francis Chase & Chs Way present at the time –*
> *Attest – Abner Chase*

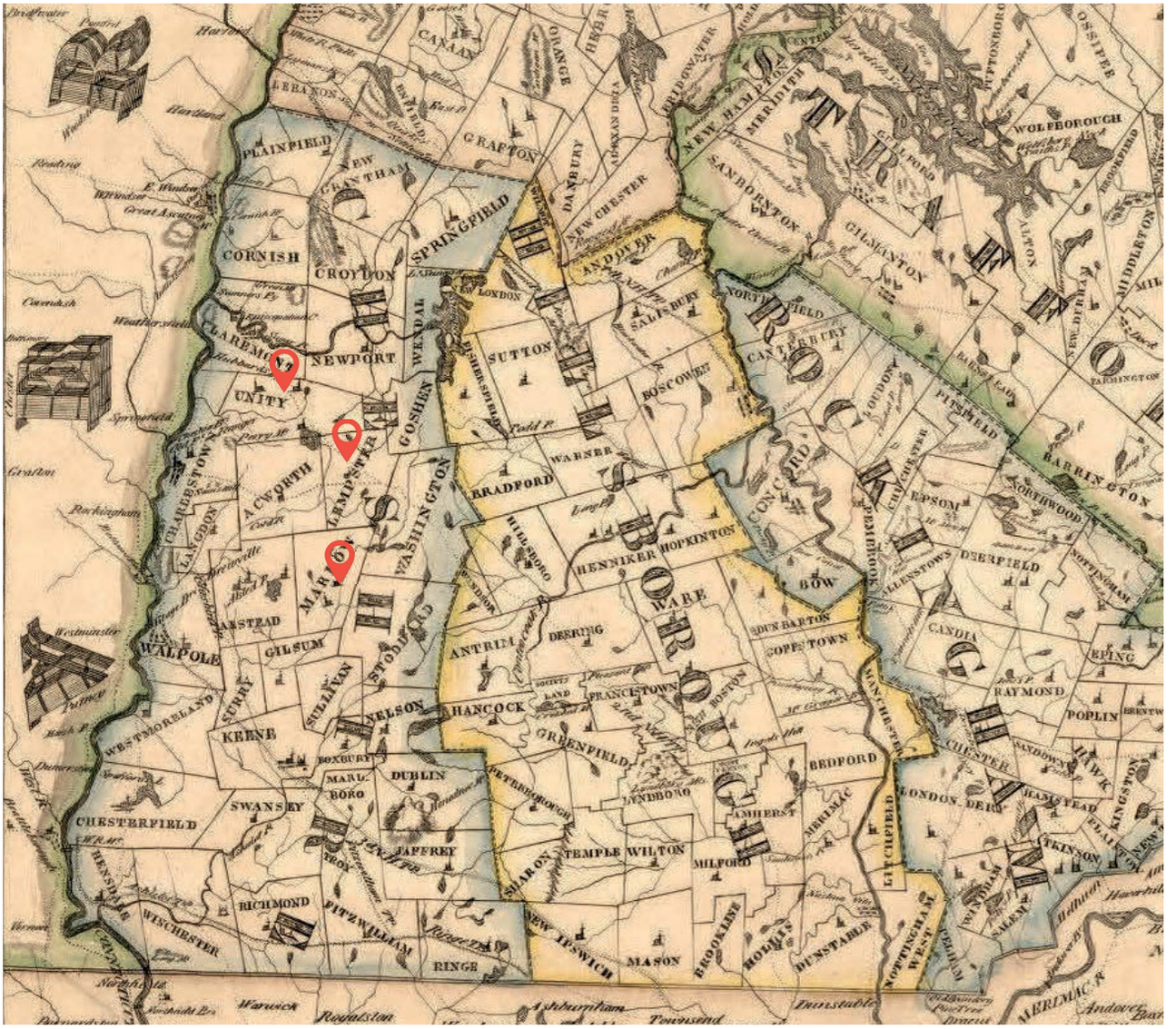
Census records from 1810 along with genealogical research and other historical documents were reviewed in an attempt to corroborate the authenticity, contemporaneity and the provenance of the counterfeit coin.

The 1810 census identifies Abner Chase (1746-1838) living in Lempster, New Hampshire, although local records suggest he was living at his tavern in Unity (Romer 2017); Abner was about 69 years old when he received the 1787 half dollar. In 1813 Lempster was a medium-sized but prosperous town of about 850 people. This region was growing wealthy as a result of a boom in sheep farming and the wool trade. Lempster was also conveniently situated along the recently completed (1801) Second New Hampshire Turnpike, a route which extended from Boston, Massachusetts to Lake Champlain in Vermont, resulting in the increased transportation of trade goods, and other branch turnpikes.

Abner owned the Chase Tavern in the adjacent town of Unity, located about ten miles northwest of Lempster along the same turnpike; this tavern was built around 1800 and still exists today. Unity had a population of about 1,000 residents in 1813. The Chase Tavern acted as a social center where local meetings were held, and where news, information and postage was exchanged.

Chase Tavern, as photographed in the late 1800s, then being used as a farm home.

Francis Chase (1772-1850) was Abner's oldest son. He worked in the tavern business with his father for many years. They both had tavern licenses which they renewed annually until 1837. 1837 was also the year the Second New Hampshire Turnpike surrendered its charter (Romer 2017). The Chase's probably stopped renewing their tavern license in 1837 through due to the turnpike surrendering its charter, advancing age, and perhaps the poor health of Abner, age 91, or Francis, age 65.



Section of Edward Ruggles 1817 map of New Hampshire showing the locations of Unity, Lempster, and Marlow.

John Henry Cram (1788-1864), originally of Jay, New York, was a relative newcomer to Unity becoming a resident in 1810 after marrying Rebecca Pease. Cram was over six feet tall, phenomenally strong, and was both a farmer and carpenter (Beattie 2004). He remained a resident of Unity until 1836 before moving his family west, eventually settling in southern California. The Cram family's westward journey and adventures to California are chronicled by Donahue and Suttle (2013).

Finally, Christopher 'Chs' Way (1773-1842 (Brown 2017) or 1773-1874 (Manning 1949)) was a resident of Marlow located about ten miles south of Lempster. In the 1810 census, Marlow had a population of about 570 people. Chris and Francis were about the same age and may have been acquaintances given their mutual presence when the 1787 half dollar was received by Abner. On a personal note, there is some ambiguity as to when Way died. In one account it is said he was killed by lightning while working on a forge on May 11, 1842, aged 68 (Brown 2017). The second account has him, or someone else with the same name, living to be 101 years old and dying on July 9, 1874 (Manning 1949).

The situation uniting these four men on Wednesday, May 19, 1813 in Lempster, along with the extent of their relationship, is unknown. Similarly unclear are the circumstances surrounding young Cram's acquisition of this half dollar at the age of about 25, his purpose for giving it to Abner, and Abner documenting this in a short letter and wrapping the half dollar inside. Did

these four men know or speculate this piece was not genuine? After more than two centuries, the answers to these questions may never be known and instead only be speculated.

Cram most likely acquired the 1787 half dollar from a traveler passing through Unity along the Second New Hampshire Turnpike. Cram may have speculated the piece was not genuine, put his initials on it, and voluntarily gave it to Abner, especially since the letter does not identify Cram as being deceitful, to avoid any future legal conflict of unintentionally handling counterfeit money. Of all the people to give this half dollar to, Abner was a prime local candidate. Abner seems to be one of the more well-known, respected and responsible members in the area due to his tavern and meeting house, allowing him to inform and warn people from receiving such a coin. Abner could have also disposed of this counterfeit coin properly. Then again, the letters absent discussion of authenticity is peculiar, and if it was a known or suspected counterfeit it would likely have been documented as such.

An alternative hypothesis is that Cram gave it to Abner as payment for something. The letter was then written as a form of receipt given the presence of the two witnesses. However, this piece may later have been saved because it was found to be a counterfeit and therefore worthless as money. The flaw with this scenario is that Abner would have likely confronted Cram about the pieces being spurious and requested an exchange.

The Cram-Chase 1787 half dollar with the initials 'JC' carved into the left obverse field.

Recent History

Since the 1813 Chase letter, most public appearances have occurred in the 20th century.

The earliest known numismatic auction appearance was in the Elliot Woodward's auction of December 19, 1865. In the sale, a 1787 piece from the Daniel Bertsch collection was sold as lot 1431 for an unknown amount.

The next known public appearance was in Thomas Elder's auction of July 3, 1915 where a 1787-dated piece (lot 113) was described as a 'freak' and sold for just 80 cents.

The following year, the April 1916 *Numismatist* (page 183) showed a '178-' half dollar exhibited at the Boston Numismatic Society and owned by E. E. Shepardson; this piece may be the same example that sold the year before in the Elder auction. It was hypothesized that the last digit may be a '2' and thus was dated '1782'.

In the May 1916 issue of the *Numismatist* (page 222) several readers responded to the prior article. Frank Stewart said the last digit was intentionally altered and asked about the edge type. Henry Chapman said he had seen similar pieces dated 1787, and called it a counterfeit of the time. And Farran Zerbe said the counterfeiter just got 'mixed in his dates' because of this fantasy date.

In the following issue of the June 1916 *Numismatist* (page 273) Malcolm Storer, curator at the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS), responded stating that a well-worn example dated 1878 was in their William Sumner Appleton Collection, as donated in 1903; it is unknown when or where Appleton acquired his 1878 piece. The Appleton-MHS specimen is plated herein.

A few decades later, John Ford wrote an article in the November 1950 edition of the *Coin Collector's Journal* titled "Numismatic Americana." This article described the Cram-Schilke piece, which included the torn and wrinkled paper letter (Stacks 2002) written in nearly illegible handwriting (Kleeberg 2000) by Abner Chase. It is unknown when, where and how Oscar Schilke acquired the Cram example. Ford, or his wife, did their best to translate that letter.

More than a decade would pass before any new discussion of these half dollars would surface. The April 27, 1962 edition of *Coin World*

contained an article by Art Lovi proclaiming "I think [this 1787 half dollar] is one of the greatest discoveries in American numismatic history." Newman first speculated an altered date and then later a "routine counterfeit with a fictitious date." In July of 1962, Fuld would go on to comment in subsequent editions of *Coin World* that the "so-called" 1787 half dollar was a counterfeit documented in the May 1916 *Numismatist* (p. 222).

The following year Don Taxay published the Cram-Schilke piece in his 1963 book *Counterfeit, Mis-Struck and Unofficial U.S. Coins*.

The Counterfeits

This counterfeiter created at least six varieties using five obverse and two reverse dies. 1787 Z1-A and Z2-A have an 8 x 6 star configuration with a common reverse. 1787 Z3-B and 1887 Z1-A have an 8 x 7 star configuration, like the genuine coin. And 1878 Z1-A and Z1-B have a 7 x 8 star configuration; 1878 Z1-A date and star configuration are thought to be die sinking errors.

This author evaluated the planchet alloys via XRF and found all those studied to be billon. They all have the same double edge lettering. A drop hammer may have been used to strike these given that examples of 1787 Z3-B and 1878 Z1-B exhibit some die-bounce doubling on one side. In general, the die details were also weakly struck which can result from improper use of or underweight drop hammer. Alternatively, if a screw press was used it did not have optimal pressure.

In total, 20 examples have been documented. Four are in the collection at the American Numismatic Society (ANS), one is in the MHS collection, while the remaining 15 are in private collections. Some examples have wedge-shaped test-cuts along the rim to check for authenticity. These cuts are similar to those seen on other contemporary counterfeits of the era such as Mexican portrait eight reales.

Table 1.1. ***First Family***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	Edge	Alloy	Rptd.	Kleeberg
1887	1	A	LE.900-ZAA	Bi	1	Unlisted
1787	1			Bi	4	1-A
1787	2			Bi	3	Unlisted
1878	1			Bi	2	Unlisted
		B		Bi	6	3-B
1787	3			Bi	4	2-B

The Counterfeiter

While the Abner Chase letter is most intriguing, the genesis of these imitations may never be conclusively known. That said, there is still indirect evidence which may point to the origin of these pieces.

When were these made?

The question of when these counterfeit half dollars were made is a difficult one to pin down. The Cram example within the Abner Chase letter is particularly important to study since it provides the earliest provenance and identifies the latest year these pieces were produced, 1813. Thus, these were certainly produced between 1794 and 1813. But can this date range be narrowed further?

The Cram example shows little evidence of wear. This indicates that it was not likely in circulation very long, possibly no more than a few years before it was preserved in the letter. This may conservatively narrow when it was made to between 1810 and 1813.

Whether related or not, this 1810 to 1813 range fits within the period when Jefferson's Embargo Act of 1807 was enforced. The Embargo Act closed all U.S. ports to export shipping, with additional import restrictions from Britain. This had the effect of paralyzing the coastal economies around New England resulting in widespread unemployment to merchant sailors and leading to a depression in these states. Jefferson eventually repealed the Embargo Act in 1809. Yet, this Act was quickly replaced by the Non-Intercourse Act which ultimately had the same damaging effect on the coastal economy. These two Acts were precursors to the U.S. getting involved in the War of 1812.

The War of 1812 was fought between the U.S., Britain, and their respective allies. This War had a major effect on domestic coinage circulation resulting in most precious metal coinage in the U.S. being hoarded.

This prolonged the economic depression in New England.

In sum, the passage of these depressive economic trade Acts, the War, and subsequent coinage hoarding may ultimately have triggered someone to counterfeit these half dollars.

Where were these made?

Pedigree research may help provide a geographic origin for these imitations. Here, four of the earliest examples documented, ranging from 1813 to about 1920, are examined. The other 16 examples documented have pedigrees from as early as the 1940s and are considered to have diminishing value to this survey.

The Abner Chase piece is first mentioned from Unity and Lempster, New Hampshire, two towns located along the Second New Hampshire Turnpike which extended from Boston, Massachusetts to Vermont. Towns along this route may point to the origin of these pieces.

Boston is an intriguing starting place to look. In 1810 it was the fourth largest city in the U.S. Its booming economy led to a lot of money changing hands, including early U.S. federal coinage which would have been familiar to people there. Boston also had several people with skill in the art of coin making. Historically, urban areas in the U.S. were centers where die struck counterfeiting took place due to the greater access to equipment, materials, and supplies needed to achieve such an operation. In contrast, contemporary rural husbandry areas of New Hampshire had a limited amount of hard currency, partially relying on barter, and few people likely had die-making skills. In addition, Boston was only about 100 miles from Lempster, a comparatively close distance.

The next three examples documented all trace their origin to the Boston area. These include the 1878 piece owned by Appleton as late as 1903, the 1787 piece owned by Shepardson as late as 1916, and the 1787 piece owned by Zack found in the early 20th century within an early 19th century home in a suburb west of Boston.

Who made these counterfeits?

Like most counterfeit U.S. coins which survive today, the counterfeiter who made these 1787 and 1878 Flowing Hair half dollars remains elusive. The overall die work suggests someone with at least moderate die sinking and engraving skills. The case for an apprentice die sinker with access to sophisticated equipment, materials and supplies is reasonable to assume. This narrows the list of potential candidates to early 1800s engravers, die sinkers, medalists or silversmiths. Punch-link matches on other medals and tokens, if such pieces exist, may aid us in eventually revealing this counterfeiter's identity.

Why the dates 1787, 1878, & 1887?

The purpose of the primary date, 1787, is unknown, and it may not be significant. This fantasy date may have been intentionally chosen in order to side-step counterfeiting laws by offering only a suggestion of the intended coin. If the counterfeiter's identity is ever uncovered then the significance of this date may be unraveled.

There are at least two theories why the 1878 and 1887 dated dies were created. Both center upon a common idea that this date was an unintentional die making error. Most likely by a novice or apprentice die sinker.

The first theory for the 1878 date was that it was actually intended to be 1787, consistent with the three other 1787-dated dies. For this to be correct the die maker confused the backward orientation of the 7 and 8 punches. As a result, the last three digits got mixed-up. Once the date blunder was noticed, probably early in striking, the last 8 on the die was intentionally defaced.

The second theory is that the counterfeiter meant to create 1788-dated dies. For this to be correct the die maker again must have mixed-up the digits. This is slightly more believable as 1788 was contemporary with the period of manufacture, rather than intentionally making futuristic dated pieces. Further, by creating a second date the counterfeits would be more diverse and potentially more believable as real coins to the unassuming public. Whatever the intended date was supposed to be, the Occam's razor solution suggests that the answer is probably the one with the fewest assumptions, and that was simply a die sinking error from inexperience.

The Counterfeits

In general, both the Flowing Hair and Draped Bust half dollar designs were rarely counterfeited. This was despite nearly two million pieces being minted over a 14-year period resulting in them being regularly encountered in circulation across New England and in neighboring States. Instead, American coin counterfeiters at this time continued making eight reales, and they were just starting to make U.S. Half and full Eagles; U.S. silver coins of any denomination were rarely pursued.

Hand-made, die struck counterfeit Flowing Hair and Draped Bust half dollars appear to have been the most common type produced. Contemporary circulating transfer die counterfeits are unknown. And cast counterfeits are scarce.

Hand-Made Dies

FLOWING HAIR

Six different varieties of hand-made, die struck counterfeit Flowing Hair half dollars have been confirmed, and all of them belong to the *First Family*. All were probably made between 1810 and 1813 per the Chase letter.

In total, 20 examples have been photographically documented. This population has grown steadily over the last decade as new examples came to light and intense efforts were put forth to document them. It is likely that additional examples will be documented in the future and the total population may reach 30 or more examples.

Based on the rarity of each of these varieties few numismatists have ever had a chance to seriously pursue a complete collection. Currently, three collectors have at least half a complete collection.

Few sales of these pieces have been documented before the year 2000. In the last decade, a handful of examples have sold publicly and privately. Collectors are known to have paid between $500 and $4,500 for a single example.

DRAPED BUST

Three different varieties of hand-made, die struck counterfeit DBHs have been confirmed. These include 1801 Z1-A, a singleton, and 1806 Z1-B and 1809 Z1-B, both associated with the *Evasion* family. Only one example of each variety has so far been documented.

The *Evasion* family has four known varieties including an 1806 and 1809 half dollar and two Eagles dated 1805 and 1808. Except for the 1806 half dollar, the other three are fantasy dates for their respective denominations and designs. The dates on these pieces suggest that they were made by or after 1809, but how much later in time is unknown. The *Evasion* family is unusual in that very few counterfeiters have been documented making both silver and gold die struck counterfeit U.S. denominations for circulation. A more comprehensive discussion on this family will be included in a forthcoming *Bad Metal: Gold* book.

Table 1.2. *Evasion*

Date	Denom.	Obv.	Rev.	Alloy
1806	50c	1	B	Bi(?)
1809	50c	1		Bi(?)
1805	$10	1	J	Cu
1808	$10	1		Cu(?)

Based on the rarity of each variety, few numismatists have been able to acquire an example of a hand-made die DBH counterfeit for their respective collections. Few sales records exist to estimate the value of these varieties, and most of these are private transactions. Estimated values for these varieties are thought to start between $500 and $1,000.

1787
Z1-A

Obverse: Fantasy date. 8x6 star configuration. Level 8 in date.
Reverse: A2 not above a pair of leaves. The dexter wing of the eagle protrudes only a little beyond the wreath. The left foot of the M in AMERICA is very close to a leaf (Kleeberg 2000). Berry at left edge of upright of E3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
4	Billon	LE.900-ZAA	*First Family* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded in Taxay (1963; 152) and Kleeberg 1-A (Kleeberg 2000).

1787
Z2-A

Obverse: Fantasy date. 8x6 star configuration. High 8 in date.
Reverse: A2 not above a pair of leaves. The dexter wing of the eagle protrudes only a little beyond the wreath. The left foot of the M in AMERICA is very close to a leaf (Kleeberg 2000). Berry at left edge of upright of E3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
3	Billon	LE.900-ZAA	*First Family* Family	**a)** Prime. **b)** **Obv.** Crack(?) from star 5 to portrait.

Comments: First example reported in 2015, second example in 2017, and a third example was found by a metal detectorist in 2018.

1787 Z3-B

Obverse: Fantasy date. 8x7 star configuration.
Reverse: A2 is above a pair of leaves. The dexter wing of the eagle protrudes much more beyond the wreath. The D of UNITED is distant from E1 (Kleeberg 2000).

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
4	Billon	LE.900-ZAA	*First Family* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Kleeberg 2-B (Kleeberg 2000). Example shown exhibits reverse doubling.

1878 Z1-A

Obverse: Fantasy date. 7x8 star configuration. T at front of hair. Nearly all examples seen have the last 8 defaced from the die.
Reverse: A2 not above a pair of leaves. The dexter wing of the eagle protrudes only a little beyond the wreath. The left foot of the M in AMERICA is very close to a leaf (Kleeberg 2000). Berry at left edge of upright of E3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
2	Billon	LE.900-ZAA	*First Family* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: One example is in the MHS collection.

1878
Z1-B

Obverse: Fantasy date. 7x8 star configuration. T at front of hair. Nearly all examples seen have the last 8 defaced from the die.

Reverse: A2 is above a pair of leaves. The dexter wing of the eagle protrudes much more beyond the wreath. The D of UNITED is distant from E1 (Kleeberg 2000).

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
6	Billon	LE.900-ZAA	*First Family* Family	**a)** Prime. Full date **b)** **Obv.** Last 8 defaced from die.

Comments: Previously recorded as Kleeberg 3-B (Kleeberg 2000). Most examples seen with the last digit in the date partially effaced from the die. Most examples seen exhibit some level of strike doubling.

1887
Z1-A

Obverse: Fantasy date. 8x7 star configuration. Portrait close to LIBERTY. R at front of hair.

Reverse: A2 not above a pair of leaves. The dexter wing of the eagle protrudes only a little beyond the wreath. The left foot of the M in AMERICA is very close to a leaf (Kleeberg 2000). Berry at left edge of upright of E3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
1	Billon	LE.900-ZAA	*First Family* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First example reported in 2022.

1787 Z1-A

Plate

1787
Z1-A

Ex. Cram (1813); Schilke (~1950); Glazer (Present).

1787
Z1-A

SD collection (? - 2021); Private collection (2021-Present).

1787
Z1-A

Gift of Wayte Raymond to ANS (1942).

1787
Z1-A

Gift of Milferd H. Bolender to ANS (1947).

1787 Z2-A

Plate

1787
Z2-A

Ex. East Coast collection (George) found in old house near Boston; Zack (2015-Present).

1787
Z2-A

First reported in 2017. Glazer (2020-Present).

1787
Z2-A

Reverse image not available.

Found by a metal detectorist (location undocumented) in 2018. Obverse is scratched.

1787 Z3-B

Plate

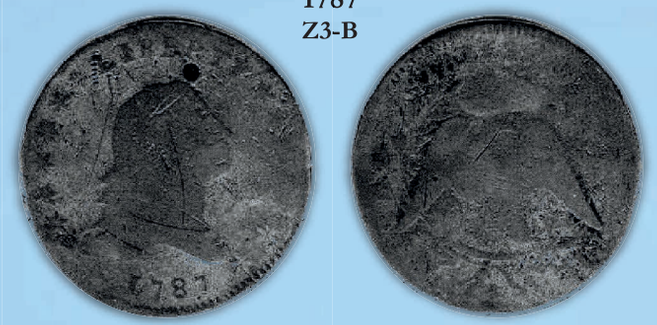
1787
Z3-B

Ex. Jim Curto; Weinberg (? - 1996); Downey (Denver ANA (1996 - ?)); Summers; Glazer (Present).

1787
Z3-B

Ex. Glazer (? - 2016); Zack (2016-Present).

1787
Z3-B



Ex. Villanucci (? - 1998); Sheridan Downey MB sale No. 21, lot 283 (1998); ex. Glazer (1998 - ?); *Badpenny* (2018 - Present)

1787
Z3-B

The Numismatist (April 1916). Current whereabouts are unknown. This piece may have been part of the Elder auction (7/3/1915) where it sold for 80 cents and was described as a 'freak'.

1878 Z1-B

Plate

1878
Z1-B

Gift of Milferd H. Bolender to ANS (1947).

1878
Z1-B

Gift of R. Byron White to ANS (1989).

1878
Z1-B

Sheridan Downey MB 33 lot 164 (2007).

1878
Z1-B

Glazer (Present). Example shown is double struck on the obverse.

1878
Z1-B

Ex. Downey MB sale 23, lot 229 (1999); Glazer (? - 2016); Zack (2016-2017); Wierzba (2017-Present).

1878
Z1-B

Zack collection (2018-Present).

1878 Z1-A

Plate

1878
Z1-A

Ex. Appleton collection (? - 1906). MHS (1906-Present).

1878
Z1-A

Ex. Norman G. Peters collection (? - 2021). Glazer collection (2021-Present)

1887 Z1-A

Plate

1887
Z1-A

Ex. Zilinskas family collection (early 1960s - 2022).
Zack (2022-Present). W engraved in Liberty's portrait.

1801 Z1-A

Obverse:	Tall, thin numerals in date. Top serif of 1s backwards, pointing right. 7x6 star configuration. Y above T in LIBERTY.
Reverse:	Thin letters. TA wide in STATES. No stem through right claw. 12(?) stars above eagles head; stars 7, 11, 12 all touch.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	Lettered	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Edge lettering reads FIFTY CEИTI OЯ HA⅂F A ⅅOLLAЯ.

1806 Z1-B

Obverse:	Low date. Pointed stem on 6. 7x6 star configuration. Stars 1-3 relatively widely spaced. Tops of LIB overlap rim. Large E missing middle serif with small raised metal under the middle of E.
Reverse:	Heraldic Eagle. Thin, crude lettering on the legend. 12 reverse stars (6x5x1) above the eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Lettered	*Evasion* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: The edge is well made. It has bars between all letters but missing them between OR HALF A. The center part of the H of HALF is a prominent, raised horizontal bar and above it is a prominent raised vertical to separate the top uprights of the H. The R of OR is a bit low. The N in CENT may be backwards and appears sort of like a muddled M. .

1809
Z1-B

Obverse: Draped Bust style. Impossible date. 7x6 star configuration. Thin, crude, unevenly spaced lettering of LIBERTY.

Reverse: Heraldic Eagle. Thin, crude lettering on the legend. 12 reverse stars (6x5x1) above the eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Lettered (est.)	*Evasion* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Gift of Edouard Frossard to ANS on June 11, 1896.

Transfer Dies

Only one transfer die counterfeit Flowing Hair and Draped Bust half dollar have been documented. No reasonable estimate on market value can be ascertained on these pieces at this time.

Comments: This FH half was cut into a quarter, either as change or to check if it was plated over base metal. The overall appearance of this piece suggests a Sheffield plate style of production.

1803
TD.O-101

Comments: Overton-101. Copper planchet. Nearly all of the original silver plate is gone.

Casts

Cast counterfeit Draped Bust half dollars are rare. Only a few examples have been documented. Their quality is generally mediocre to poor.

The general rarity of these cast counterfeits has limited recent pricing and sales data, and no reasonable estimate on value can be ascertained at this time.

C1805
O-112

Comments: Overton 112. White metal.

C1806
O-109

Comments: Overton 109. Pointed 6, no stem. White metal alloy.

C1806
O-(unknown)

Comments: Overton variety unknown. Knob 6, stem variety. Appears to be copper or brass.

Capped Bust

Authentic Coin Overview

1807-1839 • Philadelphia, New Orleans Mints

Capped Bust half dollars (CBH) were first minted in 1807 transitioning from the final DBHs coined earlier that year. They were minted in Philadelphia from 1807 to 1839 except for 1816. The New Orleans Mint also struck them in 1838 and 1839 with an obverse O-mintmark above the date.

From 1807 to 1836 the CBH planchet had an alloy of 0.8924 silver and 0.1076 copper, it weighed 13.48 grams when new, it had a diameter of approximately 32.5 mm, and it had a lettered edge. In 1836 to the end of the design in 1839 the CBH planchet changed when a reeded edge was introduced. This later planchet had an alloy of 0.90 silver and 0.10 copper, it weighed 13.36 grams, and it had a diameter of 30 mm.

There were three phases of lettered edge designs on the CBH. From 1807 to 1814 the edge read FIFTY CENTS OR HALF A DOLLAR. From 1814 to 1831 a star was added between DOLLAR and FIFTY. Finally, from 1832 to 1836 vertical lines, or reeding, was added in the space between each word.

The obverse master dies went through several refined design changes from 1807 through 1836 (Karoleff 1996, 61), including (1) 1807-1808; (2) 1809-1812; (3) 1812-1817; (4) 1817-1825; (5) 1825-1830; (6) 1830-1832; (7) 1832-1834; (8) 1834 (small bust); (9) 1834-1836.

The reverse design was most different from 1807 and 1808, but was broadly the same from 1809 to 1836 having only three hub changes during that entire period. Of particular note is that the denomination read 50 C., and a scroll with the motto E PLURIBUS UNUM was located above the eagle. From 1836 to 1837 the reverse was redesigned with the denomination reading 50 CENTS and the banner above the eagle was removed. Finally, from 1838 to 1839 the denomination was changed again to HALF DOL. and the lettering was larger.

CBHs had the highest mintage of any U.S. silver denomination during this period. More than 91 million were coined with more than half being produced during the 1830s. There were more than enough to meet the demands of everyday commerce. And until at least 1853, if not 1878 when the Morgan dollar was minted, the half dollar was the largest U.S. silver denomination commonly seen in circulation. Needless to say, half dollars were a driving force in the U.S. economy from inception to the mid-20th century.

Type 2, Lettered Edge (1807 - 1836)

Type 3, Reeded Edge (1836 - 1837)

Type 4, Reeded Edge (1838 - 1839)

The Counterfeiters

Effects of Suspension.–Counterfeit half dollars are already as "plentiful as blackberries" in Philadelphia.
The Baltimore Sun, November 6, 1839.

INTRODUCTION

In the first-half of the 19th century, a half dollar was equivalent to a day's wage for a laborer, farm-hand or factory worker. Prior to 1830 the half dollar was the largest denomination U.S. coin in general circulation, and was very desirable for making major transactions; gold coins and silver dollars were rarely seen. Many half dollars were also exported to the West Indies from 1807 to 1836 where a small profit could be made (Carothers 1967; 75).

Prior to the Civil War the half dollar was a crucial denomination, fitting between the similarly common Mexican and Spanish quarter (two reales and pistareen), dollar (eight reales), and French ecú and five franc in various parts of the U.S. As a result of the necessity of the CBH for commerce and storing wealth, and adverse economic events, it became the most counterfeited U.S. silver coin in the 19th century, on par with the portrait two and eight reales.

Riddell (1845) states that pre-1836 die-struck CBH counterfeits were made and put into circulation because both operations, the Philadelphia Mint and the counterfeiters, produced irregular dies (relative to post-1836 U.S. coinage), and therefore the 'ordinary observer [could not] well distinguish those which are good' (Riddell 1845).

In actuality, Mint dies were much more consistently made than most counterfeit varieties from documented families, and this probably was not a prime motivator for counterfeiting this series. It is more likely that this series was counterfeited due to a need by the public for hard currency during the economic depression of the late 1830s and the first-half of the 1840s. Furthermore, indoor lighting was not very good and people's eyesight was not regularly corrected resulting in the inability for many people to distinguish the counterfeit from the genuine coin.

HISTORY

Between 1807 and 1819, only half-a-dozen newspaper reports have been found of counterfeit CBHs in circulation. All of the specific reports identify the pieces in circulation as being casts. An example of this is found in the December, 19 1818 issue of the *Lancaster Intelligencer.*

Counterfeits. Counterfeit *half-dollars* are in circulation in this city. They are well executed; but can easily be detected, by their being much lighter than the real coin. It only requires a little caution to discover them; and we give this notice to the Citizens, that they may not be imposed upon, as we have been, by the receipt of any of them. [*Franklin Gaz.*]

Lancaster Intelligencer. December 19, 1818.

The earliest documented case of presumably CBHs being counterfeited comes from *The Evening Post* on October 19, 1811 in which two shovers were arrested for passing counterfeit half dollars. A few dozen examples were also recovered in that arrest.

NEWBERG, (N. Y.) Oct. 15.
Last evening Aaron Clark and Jacob Valentine, of Philipstown, Dutchess, county, were employed in this village passing counterfeit *half dollars*, they were soon detected, and on examination such strong evidence of guilt appeared, as warranted their commitment to jail for trial. Forty or 50 counterfeit American half dollars made of pewter or lead and indifferently executed were found on them.

The Evening Post. October 19, 1811.

While these reports stress cast counterfeits being exclusively or predominantly made, this does not rule out the possibility that die struck pieces were being produced. It may have been they were not detected, not reported, or such reports have not been identified from historical documentation. The report in the July 21, 1819

issue of the *Gettysburg Compiler* is somewhat intriguing in the sense that the counterfeit CBHs are described as being relatively high-quality. Nevertheless, it seems unlikely that many, if any die struck counterfeit CBHs were being made at this time.

Counterfeit half dollars are in circulation in the neighborhood of Mansfield, Ohio. They are said to be well executed, and hardly distinguishable from genuine coin.

Gettysburg Compiler. July 21, 1819.

Even in the first-half of the 1820s, there is little documented evidence of CBHs being counterfeited. All the newspaper reports found and reviewed only identify casts in circulation and there is no hint of die struck pieces being made or in circulation. Rarer still is evidence of counterfeiters being caught and convicted. In a rare report, the *Gettysburg Compiler* of July 7, 1824 identifies a William Foulks, Jr. having passed counterfeit half dollars and being sentenced to four years in the penitentiary. Even at this time enforcement of counterfeit laws were strict and able to be enforced.

NEW LISBON, O. June 23.

At the last session of the court of Common Pleas for this county, *Richard Hart* was convicted for coining, and sentenced to the penitentiary for the term of 10 years; *James Bennet* was convicted for coining counterfeit Spanish milled dollars, and sentenced to the penitentiary for 7 years; *Abraham Hill* and *John Hill* were convicted for the same offence, were each sentenced to serve 6 years in the penitentiary; and *William Foulks*, Jr. for passing counterfeit half dollars, was sentenced to serve 4 years in the penitentiary. *Patriot.*

Gettysburg Compiler. July 7, 1824.

The earliest record of what is interpreted as a die struck counterfeit CBH reported in circulation was described in the April 12, 1827 issue of

Beware of Counterfeits!

Counterfeit Half Dollars of a composition the sound of which is very much like that of silver, have been passed and are now in circulation in Hagers-town. Persons in the hurry of business, if not on their guard, may very easily be imposed upon by them.

The Torch Light and Public Advertiser. April 12, 1827.

The Torch Light and Public Advertiser. Although descriptive evidence is a bit vague, the statement "*….of a composition the sound of which is much very like that of silver….*" is clear enough to be interpreted from this time as being a die struck counterfeit. In contrast, the method of describing a cast counterfeit at this time was different, often focusing on the noticeably light weight and lack of ring.

While the northern, non-slave states are often credited with being responsible for the vast majority of U.S. (and foreign) coins counterfeited during the first-half of the 19th century, counterfeiting was not exclusive to these regions. As a reminder of the times one report, originally published in the *Charleston Courier*, but reproduced in *The Journal* and *The Weekly Gleaner* on February 3,

Counterfeit Half Dollars.—We were yesterday shew a counterfeit Half Dollar, which was received in change, of the United States, and bears the date of 1827. The execution is so good, that if particular attention was not drawn to it, most persons would receive it without suspicion. It is lighter than the genuine Half Dollar; the stars around the head, and the figures 1827 are not so clear and smooth as if cut with a die. These are the only marks by which we would have detected it. *Chas. Courier.*

The Journal. February 3, 1829.

Beware of Counterfeit Money.—In our last we mentioned having seen a counterfeit Half Dollar, which had been received as genuine a day or two before. Yesterday a gentlemen left at our office *twenty-nine pieces, all counterfeits, of the coin of the United States.* Three pieces represent Dollars, the others Half Dollars, and like the first we saw, are so well executed, that most persons would have received them without discovering the cheat. The gentleman who left these with us, stated that they were found, in a bag, on James Island by a Negro, who delivered them to his master. This circumstance renders it probable that we have a gang of Counterfeiters in our neighborhood, who are carrying on the business on a large scale. Our Police Officers should be on the look out.—*Charleston Courier.*

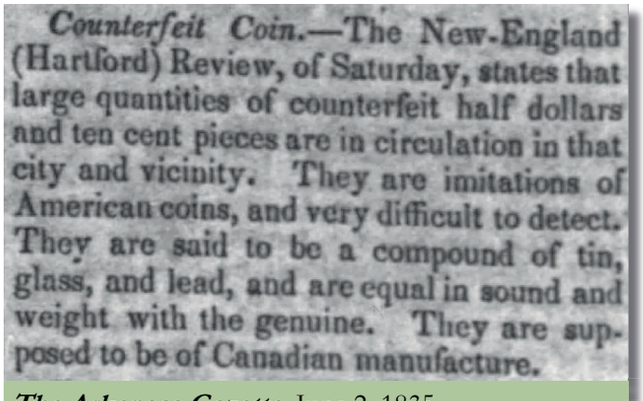
The Weekly Gleaner. February 3, 1829.

1829, indicated that a slave found a quantity of counterfeit CBHs dated 1827 in a bag on James Island in Charleston, South Carolina. Based on the description of the counterfeits, it is assumed the pieces found were all casts.

Through 1832, there was scant evidence of die struck counterfeit CBHs being made and in circulation. During the prior two decades, there was little in the way of adverse economic events that would have provoked a quantity of people to engage in counterfeiting CBHs or U.S. coins in general. As a result, there was negligible incentive amongst counterfeiters to produce more deceptive CBHs by going through the added expense and effort to create dies to strike pieces.

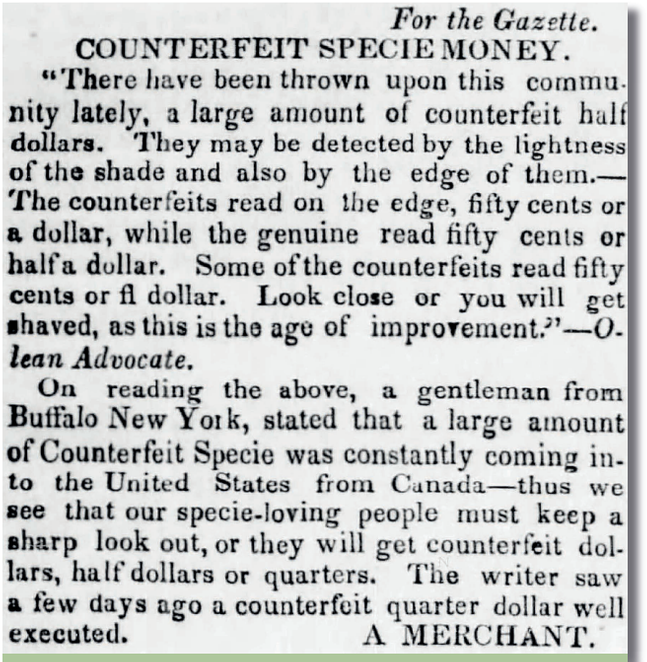
From 1834 to 1836 the U.S. enjoyed a period of economic expansion. The prices of natural resources and slaves rose sharply as the economy grew. Many new banks were chartered and they printed their own paper money to meet local and regional demands where there was not enough specie. Though most of these banks would eventually print more paper money than they could backup and exchange with specie things were pretty good. But gradually things were changing. Domestic policies such as the failure to recharter the Bank of the U.S. and the Specie Circular contributed to the gradual exportation of domestic silver to places like Canada where there was an advantageous exchange rate.

With these factors in play, there seems to have been a modest increase in the quantity of counterfeit CBHs encountered in circulation and subsequently reported. Yet, most of the newspaper articles still only clearly identified cast rather than die struck pieces being made and put into circulation. Some of these casts were even reportedly being made in Canada, judging from the reports in *The Arkansas Gazette* in 1835 and *The Pittsburgh Gazette* in 1837. Canada would continue to play a key role as a center of U.S. and Mexican coin counterfeiting through the first-half of the 1840s, and no evidence has come to light that counterfeit CBHs were made in Mexico, a myth seemingly perpetuated by Taxay (1963; 44). However, a survey of Mexican newspapers was not undertaken in the course of this research to verify this information.



Counterfeit Coin.—The New-England (Hartford) Review, of Saturday, states that large quantities of counterfeit half dollars and ten cent pieces are in circulation in that city and vicinity. They are imitations of American coins, and very difficult to detect. They are said to be a compound of tin, glass, and lead, and are equal in sound and weight with the genuine. They are supposed to be of Canadian manufacture.

The Arkansas Gazette. June 2, 1835.



For the Gazette.

COUNTERFEIT SPECIE MONEY.

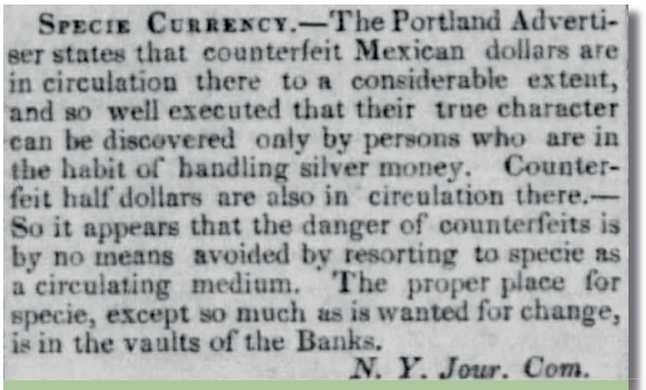
"There have been thrown upon this community lately, a large amount of counterfeit half dollars. They may be detected by the lightness of the shade and also by the edge of them.—The counterfeits read on the edge, fifty cents or a dollar, while the genuine read fifty cents or half a dollar. Some of the counterfeits read fifty cents or fi dollar. Look close or you will get shaved, as this is the age of improvement."—*Olean Advocate.*

On reading the above, a gentleman from Buffalo New York, stated that a large amount of Counterfeit Specie was constantly coming into the United States from Canada—thus we see that our specie-loving people must keep a sharp look out, or they will get counterfeit dollars, half dollars or quarters. The writer saw a few days ago a counterfeit quarter dollar well executed. A MERCHANT.

The Pittsburgh Gazette. April 6, 1837.

The implementation of adverse domestic economic policies combined with stalled exports and reduced demand for American natural resources in Europe, compounded to adversely stall the U.S. economy and dramatically reduce the value of commodities. The economic effects of this were not immediately clear, both in the short-term and the long-term. Nevertheless, there was a rapid response by the public to rush on local banks where people tried to exchange their paper money for specie. Particular attention should be paid to the last sentence within the March 24, 1837 issue of the *Vermont Phoenix,* shown on the following page. This statement is particularly intriguing since the adverse economic effects were only just starting to be felt.

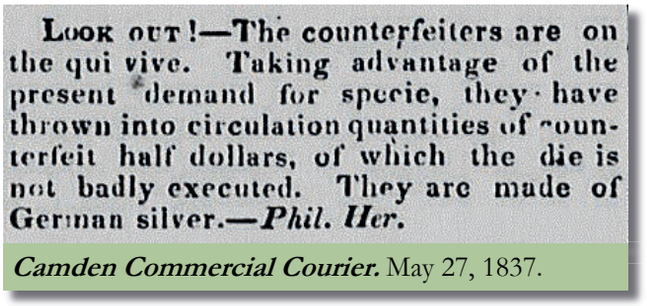
Were people already feeling the effects of the panic? Was this statement fortuitous foreshadowing of the impending and long-term economic disaster? Or was this statement an attempt to as-



SPECIE CURRENCY.—The Portland Advertiser states that counterfeit Mexican dollars are in circulation there to a considerable extent, and so well executed that their true character can be discovered only by persons who are in the habit of handling silver money. Counterfeit half dollars are also in circulation there.—So it appears that the danger of counterfeits is by no means avoided by resorting to specie as a circulating medium. The proper place for specie, except so much as is wanted for change, is in the vaults of the Banks.

N. Y. Jour. Com.

Vermont Phoenix. March 24, 1837.



LOOK OUT!—The counterfeiters are on the qui vive. Taking advantage of the present demand for specie, they have thrown into circulation quantities of counterfeit half dollars, of which the die is not badly executed. They are made of German silver.—*Phil. Her.*

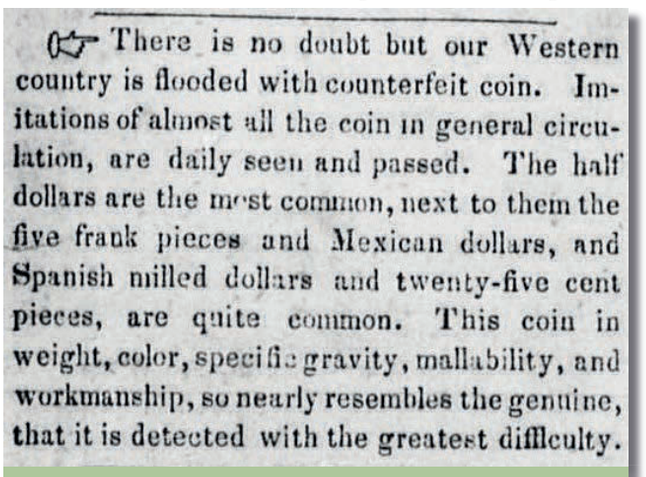
Camden Commercial Courier. May 27, 1837.

suage the sudden public fear in the banks and curb the unanticipated economic calamity being felt both domestically and globally? Looking back, it is hard to say, and the coming calamity may have been difficult to foresee at the time. But public fear was clear, and silver and gold coinage was being domestically hoarded by speculators, banks, exchange offices, specie brokers, as well as the general public on a grand scale. The loss of this staple medium of exchange was publicly unsustainable.

The results of the Panic on the counterfeit specie economy were immediately witnessed in the production of counterfeit Bust halves. Barely weeks into the Panic, which impacted the 'western country' of the Mississippi River Valley particularly due to overt land speculation, counterfeit CBHs and other denominations appeared in large quantities. The April 8, 1837 edition of the *Maumee Express*. and the May 27, 1837 edition of the *Camden Commercial Courier*, among many others, describe the initial response by counterfeiters and the effect it had on the public, both negative and positive. This explosion in counterfeiting presumably occurred to offset financial losses due to the Specie Circular in addition to other economic factors.

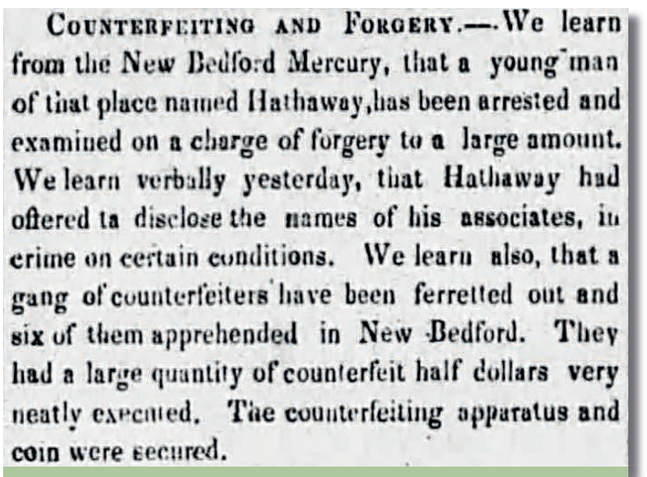
The economy partially recovered in 1838 as a result of a rebound in the price of cotton thanks to Nicholas Biddle who tried to corner the cotton market. The general public were back at work, at least temporarily, and they may have thought the Panic in 1837 was just a short-term issue. This may partially explain why reports of CBH counterfeiting were almost non-existent in 1838, but it did not mean the counterfeiters had ceased their illegal operations.

With the continuous production and circulation of counterfeits of all types, it was only a matter of time before a decently sized counterfeiting operation was busted and the perpetrators arrested. One of the earliest such cases found started with the arrest of a man named Hathaway in New Bedford, Massachusetts as reported in the April 6, 1839 edition of the *Fall River Monitor*. His associates were quickly arrested as reported in the April 13, 1839 edition of *The Courier-Journal*. Upon their capture, the police recovered two bushels of counterfeit CBHs; a bushel had a volume just over a cubic foot and could hold an estimat-



☞ There is no doubt but our Western country is flooded with counterfeit coin. Imitations of almost all the coin in general circulation, are daily seen and passed. The half dollars are the most common, next to them the five frank pieces and Mexican dollars, and Spanish milled dollars and twenty-five cent pieces, are quite common. This coin in weight, color, specific gravity, mallability, and workmanship, so nearly resembles the genuine, that it is detected with the greatest difficulty.

Maumee Express. April 8, 1837.



COUNTERFEITING AND FORGERY.—We learn from the New Bedford Mercury, that a young man of that place named Hathaway, has been arrested and examined on a charge of forgery to a large amount. We learn verbally yesterday, that Hathaway had offered to disclose the names of his associates, in crime on certain conditions. We learn also, that a gang of counterfeiters have been ferretted out and six of them apprehended in New Bedford. They had a large quantity of counterfeit half dollars very neatly executed. The counterfeiting apparatus and coin were secured.

Fall River Monitor. April 6, 1839.

A gang of counterfeiters was arrested in New Bedford Mass. on the 2nd by the police officers, who surprised two of them while engaged in coining counterfeit half dollars. Six persons were committed for examination, and two bushels of spurious coin with machinery, dies, &c. taken into custody. Counterfeit bank notes were also found on the prisoners.

The Courier Journal. April 13, 1839.

ed 11,000 to 12,000 counterfeit CBHs. Unfortunately, more specific details about this counterfeiting organization have not been found to determine what counterfeit CBH years were being made, planchet alloy(s), or other specific details which might allow us to identify the varieties they created.

It was not just large gangs involved in counterfeiting. They were probably the exception. Instead, there were plenty of small groups of counterfeiters striking CBHs in and around 1839 and subsequently being arrested. One such example was the Kain brothers, Ebenezer and Eli, of 68 Hammersley Street, New York. The duo were the "makers, venders, and passers of counterfeit coin" (*The Charleston Daily Courier*, September 7, 1839) which they had molded from German silver for more than a year before they were apprehended. Unfortunately, more specific details about the counterfeit CBHs they made elude us.

Two men, named Eli and Ebenezer Kain, have been arrested at New York charged with making and circulating counterfeit half dollars out of German silver.

The National Gazette. September 3, 1839.

Between 1840 and 1842, there were very few reports of counterfeit CBHs either being made or in circulation. This is difficult to explain given how prevalent counterfeiting was in 1839, how difficult the economy was for so many Americans, and from reports like those found in the following article from the *Public Ledger*.

A COUNTERFEITING GANG.—A gang of counterfeiters have been arrested at Windham, Greene county, N. Y., who have been engaged for some time past in counterfeiting half dollar pieces. The whole country in that neighborhood is said to be flooded with this spurious coin.

Public Ledger. October 2, 1840.

However, it is entirely possible and reasonable to assume that the general public, after several years of a rollercoaster economy, were now at the seventh stage of grief, acceptance, and that a counterfeit coin, like hard times tokens and other emergency money being produced, was better than no money at all. This was after all the new norm, the new reality, without an end in sight. And such an idea is supported by some contemporary reports, such as those in the *Richmond Weekly Palladium* of January 1, 1842.

I understand that counterfeit half dollars are in circulation here. The fact is, people are so glad to get the specie, that they dont stop to examine it.

Richmond Weekly Palladium. January 1, 1842.

By 1843 the Panic was showing signs of abating. The prices of natural resources were beginning to trend upwards and industries in the north were once again manufacturing goods for export. This led to more business in the banking sector and new loans, including those to expand investment in lands further west, such as Texas and California, thus driving optimistic economic speculation. The effect this all had on CBH counterfeiting is not entirely clear.

CBH counterfeiting was still very active in 1843 having been largely unchecked for the past five years. But this was starting to change. Reports were on the rise of law enforcement efforts preventing counterfeiters from making pieces and shovers from passing them on the public. Reports from *The Baltimore Sun* and *The Hillsborough Recorder* provide a taste of these efforts.

MORE COUNTERFEITERS IN LIMBO.—By the Batavia papers we learn that, on Sunday week officers S. S. Waldron, of Buffalo, and Dan Rozecrance, of Elba, arrested Harvey Ackley, James Lozell Ackley and Stephen Wainwright, (who has been in State prison before) for making counterfeit half dollars, and found upon them all the machinery for coining.

The Baltimore Sun. August 15, 1843.

By 1844, reports of counterfeit CBHs sharply dwindled, but counterfeiting did not stop. The

Giles Joyner and John Lyons were tried before the Circuit Court of the United States at Raleigh, last week, Judge Potter presiding, and convicted of passing counterfeit half dollars. They were sentenced to twelve months imprisonment in the jail of Davie county.

The Hillsborough Recorder. June 1, 1843.

fairly new Seated half dollar was now becoming the focus of counterfeiters' efforts. But in general, with the Panic now ending, people returned to work and life was returning to some semblance of normalcy.

By the end of the 1840s, counterfeit CBHs appear to have largely faded from circulation. By the 1850s, counterfeit CBHs were seldom made and encountered in circulation. Yet, every now and then a report surfaced of one or a few being in circulation. For example, in 1854 Boston had some 1830-dated pieces in circulation.

COUNTERFEITS.—Counterfeit half dollars, dated 1830, are in circulation in Boston.

Wilmington Journal. March 3, 1854.

In other cases, lost or forgotten hoards of pieces were found buried in various places, like old cellars.

The latest found report of counterfeit CBHs in circulation comes from *The Charleston Mercury* of December 1, 1859.

COUNTERFEIT HALF DOLLARS.—We learn that within a few days past a number of counterfeit half dollars have been put in circulation in this place. One of them has been handed to us. It is slightly thinner than the genuine coin, has not so clear a ring, and has a greasy feeling. With these exceptions it is a remarkably good imitation, and well calculated to deceive. The one we have has the date 1834.

The Charleston Mercury. December 1, 1859.

Despite hundreds of documented circulating counterfeit CBHs being made, and many large operations responsible for making them, relatively little evidence has been found indicating that the majority of these operations were eventually stopped by the authorities. And the counterfeiters who were arrested and identified have yet to have their CBH product individually identified.

In addition, the ratio of identified and unique newspaper reports (n=91) associated with counterfeit CBHs relative to the quantity of counterfeit CBH varieties (n=~456) is inconsistent and unusually low, especially when a comparative analysis is conducted against counterfeit Capped Bust half-dimes, dimes and quarters. These smaller denominations all have positive ratios of newspaper reports relative to documented varieties whereas for CBHs it is a small fraction. Was the counterfeit CBH problem too overwhelming or common to make it worthwhile to keep reporting over-and-over again? Or were other factors responsible for this?

It is estimated that at least 100 but probably not more than 250 unique operations were responsible for making the approximately 456 different counterfeit CBH varieties documented today. This takes into account all of the different counterfeit families, singletons and casts, plus an estimate of an unknown quantity of counterfeit CBH varieties that have never been documented.

Geo. H. Hemingway
Greenwich Lodge
No. 5.10.0.F.
Paulsboro
Gloucester. Co, N.J

An elaborately engraved 1830 Z14-CR (D.3-C). The text reads as follows:

The Counterfeits

The general public was familiar with half dollars but they were not always familiar with the denomination's design and changes over time. This proved an issue for counterfeit detection of pieces dated before 1836. Riddell (1845) attributed this early proliferation of half dollar counterfeits to the fact that pre-1836 U.S. Mint dies were:

> *...more irregularly produced, and as a consequence many counterfeits, especially of the half dollar,* [were] *made and put in circulation, which the ordinary observer* [could not] *well distinguish from those which are good.*

In contrast, U.S. Mint dies made beginning in 1836 used a master hub (or 'king die'), similar to the mints of France and England. As a result of this change, counterfeit detection became easier though it did not stop.

Historical documentation indicates that counterfeit half dollars were made as early as 1807. Most of the pieces reported and made prior to 1830 were cast, although some pieces were die struck, usually on billon planchets.

In contrast, most of the counterfeit CBHs made between 1830 and 1845 were struck on planchets made from billon, silver-plated copper or brass, and starting in 1837, German silver. It is estimated that hundreds of thousands, if not millions of counterfeit CBHs were produced.

The seven-year-long Panic of 1837 exacerbated half dollar counterfeiting. This was when the bulk of all die-struck counterfeit CBHs were made, and most were struck using German silver and billon planchets.

Few Seated Liberty half dollars were counterfeited initially, possibly because the CBHs were much more prevalent in circulation and the counterfeiters were set up to make them. Even in the ensuing 1840s and 1850s die struck counterfeit Seated Liberty half dollars were relatively rare and largely confined to transfer dies struck on silver-plated brass planchets.

Counterfeit CBHs were regularly encountered in circulation and yet relatively few people appear to have reported them considering the 100s of documented varieties. This may suggest that these counterfeits were tolerated by the general public, especially at times when there were coin shortages. As a result, counterfeit CBHs circulated freely with many surviving examples showing signs of advanced wear. In other cases, they were intentionally made with fewer details and/or were weakly struck to simulate circulation to help disguise their lack of authenticity. However, many counterfeit CBHs were expertly made and easily deceived the unsuspecting public. On other occasions, their quality was obnoxiously poor. Even today, counterfeit CBHs are still fooling some collectors and counterfeit detection experts.

Many numismatists have shown a keen interest in collecting counterfeit CBHs. Their long history of being catalogued, the quantity of surviving examples, the vast number of documented varieties, varying die quality, along with their large size, and a strong base of collectors of genuine CBHs makes them popular. Counterfeit CBHs can be collected in a number of ways, including by date, variety, and family. In other cases, collectors want to add a representative example to diversify their collection of genuine CBHs.

In total, 456 different counterfeit CBH varieties have been documented. This includes 320 are from hand-made or hybrid dies, 48 attributed transfer dies, and another 88 different cast counterfeit die marriages have been documented.

As of this publication, we do not know exactly where, when, or who was responsible for counterfeiting any CBH variety. It is reasonably speculated that most die struck varieties, and probably casts, were made in the northeastern states. The Ohio and Mississippi River regions, as well as New Orleans were also areas where counterfeit CBHs were heavily counterfeited.

In the following catalog of CBH varieties, some planchet alloys were identified via XRF analysis, while others are estimated when we lacked the opportunity to utilize that tool.

Counterfeit CBH Mintage and Survival Analysis

We have no idea how many counterfeit CBHs were produced in total, or for any given variety. That makes it difficult, but not impossible to estimate survival rates. By comparison, we know how many genuine CBHs were minted, and it was estimated by Evans (1993) that just 0.4% of the Philadelphia mintage for CBHs survives today for all dates (350,000-400,000). In his article, Evans incorrectly stated that 0.004% of the original CBH mintage survives today, but this has since been corrected here to 0.4% surviving.

The economics of counterfeiting, including the cost of supplies, equipment, time and labor motivated counterfeiters to produce enough pieces to eventually generate a profit. Some achieved this goal while others did not. Those not achieving this goal probably incurred additional, unplanned costs and/or stopped their practice upon rumor, threat, or arrest.

The market economy also influenced how long genuine and counterfeit coins stayed in circulation. Many of these factors overlap each other, while there are certainly differences between.

Fifty cents was a lot of money for most people in the first-half of the 19th century. Often this was about a day's wages. If the average person incidentally received a counterfeit CBH, they were likely to continue using it and were unlikely to voluntarily destroy it because the financial loss would usually be too great. Therefore, many counterfeit coins would continue to be circulated, passed along, and spent until forcibly removed from circulation, probably at the loss to a proprietor or bank. Therefore, at least in theory, counterfeit coins likely had a survival rate similar to authentic coins.

This author estimates that 10,000 to 25,000 counterfeit CBHs still exist today. If we assume this quantity is accurate with the same 0.4% survival rate as genuine CBHs, the original production of counterfeit CBHs may have been in the range of 2,500,000 to 6,250,000 pieces.

However, there is a competing hypothesis which suggests that counterfeit CBHs survive at a much higher rate than their genuine counterparts. This estimate puts counterfeit CBHs as surviving at a rate of about 10%. The primary argument is that there was little incentive in destroying, melting-down, or otherwise eliminating and removing counterfeit coins because they often had little or no precious metal content. As a result, people saved counterfeit coins as historical curiosities at the end of their useful life when they were clearly seen for what they were and could no longer be spent without difficulty. If this hypothesis is to be considered, a relatively scant 100,000 to 250,000 counterfeit CBHs may have been produced.

All of this is guess work. Estimates on the original production of counterfeit CBHs range from 100,000 to over six million. The actual total mintage is likely somewhere in between. But where on that spectrum that quantity lies is impossible to know.

One must assume that 100s if not 1000s of examples of most counterfeit CBH die marriages that have been documented today were originally produced. With 368 die struck counterfeit CBH die marriages, each variety had an average mintage of about 300 to 18,000 pieces based on the estimated range of the entire original mintage; this does not account for cast counterfeit CBHs.

Today, only a handful of counterfeit CBH varieties survive with populations of 100 or more. Some varieties are estimated to reach a 1,000 or more. The most common surviving varieties may have been preserved through circumstance, such as the later discovery of hoards of that variety, such as 1831 Z4-P where 15 to 20 high grade pieces were discovered in Boston (Davignon 2010). These most common varieties probably had original mintages of many thousands. In stark contrast, almost all die struck counterfeit CBH die marriages documented today are known by ten or fewer examples, and many of these are unique or nearly so. These quantities will increase over time but probably not substantially. In general, the rarity of most of these varieties cannot easily be explained by the data presented. It is entirely possible that most of the rarest counterfeit CBH die marriages that survive today had fairly scant mintages, potentially ranging from 50 to 250 pieces, but again this is purely speculative.

History of Cataloging Contemporary Counterfeit Bust Half Dollars

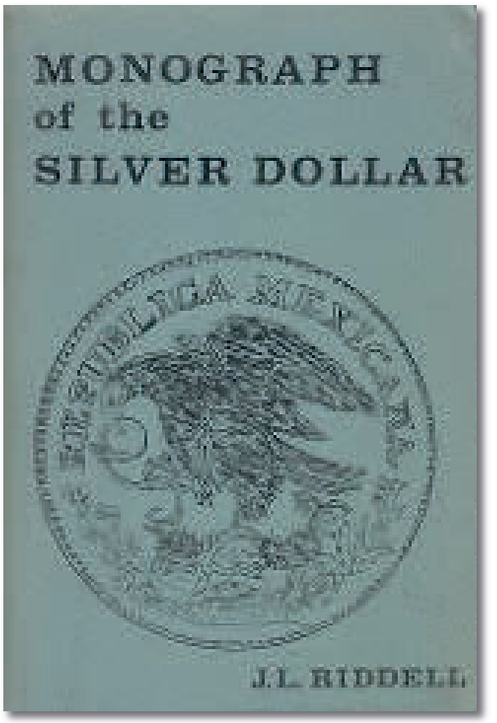
1845. John L. Riddell

John L. Riddell, melter & refiner at the New Orleans Mint from 1839 to 1848, published *A Monograph of the Silver Dollar, Good and Bad* in 1845. This book was the first comprehensive publication documenting counterfeit coins in the U.S. Riddell published assay results and images depicting an astonishing 278 varieties of counterfeit eight reales (or Central/South American dollars), but only 38 varieties of counterfeit CBHs. All were acquired from the New Orleans area. This was likely reflective of the money in circulation and provides a contemporary snapshot of the counterfeiting crisis within the New Orleans area at that time. Fast-forward nearly two centuries and the implications of this publication to modern researchers trying to understand the counterfeiting epidemic at that time is without equal.

New Orleans conducted more foreign trade than any city in the U.S. at the time, especially with Central and South America. A branch mint had opened less than a decade earlier because the Philadelphia Mint could not handle the demands for coinage in the South and West (Louisiana 2005). Interestingly, in the U.S. at this time it was not illegal to counterfeit another nations coinage, which may have exacerbated the counterfeiting of eight reales used in international commerce. These factors likely contributed to the ratio of large counterfeit silver coinage recorded by Riddell in New Orleans by 1845.

The 38-recorded counterfeit CBHs are particularly relevant because they can assist in answering critical questions about counterfeiting at this time and in determining the provenance of counterfeit families. This information, as shown below, allows improvements in our understanding of these counterfeits.

Twenty-four Riddell varieties (63%) were hand-made dies. The remaining 14 varieties copied genuine coins either via transfer die or casting. However, accurately discerning between the two production methods remains unclear especially because some Riddell varieties have not been



Reprint cover of Riddell's 1845 *Monograph*.

documented in the modern era. This author estimates seven were transfer dies and seven were casts. Extrapolating this nationwide at that time suggests roughly 80% of all counterfeit CBHs were die struck while about 20% were cast. These estimates are in line with the total documented die struck and cast counterfeit varieties known today, 368 (81%) are die struck and 87 (19%) are cast.

Of the 24 hand-made dies, 19 (79%) are associated with 10 counterfeit families, while five (21%) are presently only known as singletons. This proportion is consistent with the overall documented population of hand-made die struck counterfeit CBHs where 250 (78%) out of 320 are associated with a family and the rest are singletons.

Each of the 10 families represented were further evaluated based on current family size. Large families have 10 or more varieties. Medium families have 5 to 9 varieties. And small families have 2 to 4 varieties. This was done to identify any potential family size bias in varieties recorded by

Riddell. Based on this information, general provenance conclusions can be reached from the proportion of known varieties from each family.

Six of the 10 families represented are considered large, and are from the six largest counterfeit families presently known; the absence of documented varieties from two other large families, *Ski Nose* and *Square Tip*, is also intriguing but beyond the primary scope of this analysis. The proportion of varieties related to these families as recorded by Riddell is between five and ten percent. Several potential hypotheses can be made from this information. The counterfeiters who made these varieties were located far from New Orleans and/or were made right before 1845 such that these varieties did not have time to travel to New Orleans; they made fewer examples of each variety; these varieties were made so far back in time that few were still in circulation.

Three families, *French Connection*, *Stone* and *Top Gun*, are considered medium in size. The proportion of varieties recorded by Riddell relative to all known varieties in that family is fairly high, ranging from 28% to 80%. This might mean some counterfeiters were operating in the New Orleans area with the high quantity of varieties produced making them common in the city, or that economic transport easily moved these pieces to from more distant sources to New Orleans.

Finally, the small *Dotted Feather* family is represented by one of the three varieties documented. The small number of varieties known from this family makes it likely that random coincidence allowed it to be documented by Riddell. In the absence of additional information, no other reasonable conclusions about this can be generated

Table 1.3. Riddell Varieties to Families

Family Nickname	Riddell's Reported	Known Varieties
Clinton Head	2 (6.3%)	32
Mexican Head	2 (9.1%)	22
Buck-Toothed Eagle	2 (9.1%)	22
Pointed Wing	1 (5.9%)	17
BBB	1 (6.7%)	15
Smushed 8's	1 (6.7%)	15
French Connection	3 (37.5%)	8
Stone	2 (28.6%)	7
Top Gun	4 (80.0%)	5
Dotted Feather	1 (33.3%)	3

Point of Origin

Riddell observations may have been ruled by the relationship between number of varieties documented relative to current known family size thus potentially resolving the distance any one variety circulated before Riddell documented it. This hypothesis likely becomes more accurate with larger family sizes, difficult with smaller family sizes whereby the represented proportions can become coarser, and problematic for singletons. Further, we do not know if Riddell documented multiple examples of the same variety which could affect these interpretations.

The proportion of varieties recorded by Riddell relative to known family size can be analyzed by a relative distribution decay rate whereby the closer to the source the greater the proportion of reported counterfeit varieties expected, and vice versa. However, this decay rate can be augmented and skewed through intentional, long-distance distribution networks, which were undertaken by some counterfeiters to move their product far from the source thus making it more difficult for authorities to identify their point of origin and to apprehend the manufacturers.

The six largest counterfeiting families by quantity of varieties, as identified in Table 1.3, have less than 10% of their known varieties reported by Riddell. This rate is much lower than what was represented by the medium and small families. It is likely that these counterfeit varieties were made much further away from New Orleans. It is important to note that while the medium and small sized families are found in relatively high proportions, the sample size from each family can easily skew these results and associated interpretations.

The high proportion of *French Connection* varieties, in association with the New Orleans O-mintmark, likely indicates a local counterfeiter. If this family was made by a counterfeiter further away it would be expected that a lower proportion of varieties would be documented by Riddell. Similarly, counterfeiters further away may not have been aware of the O mintmark, or did not want to draw attention to their fakes by placing that mintmark on their coins at all. Instead, locals in New Orleans would expect to see O mintmarks, and a local "producer" would take

that detail into account.

The *Top Gun* family has the highest proportion of varieties reported at 80%. It could initially be assumed that these had a local origin, and this is possible. However, the four varieties recorded are all extremely common today, and are assumed to have been even more common across most areas of the U.S. in 1845. Therefore, their strong representation and presence in New Orleans is not necessarily unusual, and does not initially indicate a local counterfeiting source. Instead, these may originate from a Midwest source where the ease of transport down the Mississippi River simply brought them to New Orleans.

Similar cautions, as discussed above, should be considered before drawing conclusions about the origin of examples from the *Stone* and *Dotted Feather* families represented by Riddell.

Absence of varieties from other families also has implications for understanding counterfeiting operations. Lack of identification of these varieties by Riddell may be the result of most pieces being removed from circulation, a distant counterfeiter source such that few circulated in New Orleans, specimen quality so high they were not easily detected, or Riddell failing to identify these varieties in his documentation efforts.

Riddell Concluding Remarks

Riddell recorded less than 10% of the 456 (and counting) documented die struck and cast counterfeit CBH varieties. New Orleans was only partially representative of the nationwide counterfeit CBH epidemic. Most counterfeit CBH varieties were made far from New Orleans and then trickled into that economy by everyday commerce and other related circumstances.

Currently, the provenance of each variety and family recorded in association with Riddell is unknown despite exhaustive searches of historical records. Future research may uncover more information and resolve these questions.

Table 1.4. Riddell Varieties

Date	Riddell	Davignon	Zack	Family	Alloy
1814	440	1-A	Z1-G	*Clinton Head*	Bi?
1817	441	1-A	TD O-112		(?)
1818	442	1-A	Cast O-108		(?)
1821	443	1-A	TD O-116		(?)
1822	444	1-A	Z5-AM	*Top Gun*	Bi
1823	445	1-A	Z1-AM	*Top Gun*	Bi
1824	446	2-B	Z2-AX	*Top Gun*	Bi
1825	447	1-A	Z3-AM	*Top Gun*	Bi
1826	448	2-B; 4-D	Z1-AH	*Stone*	Bi
1826	449	3-C; 8-H	Z2-BF	*Stone*	Bi
1827	450	2-B	Cast O-128		(?)
1828	451	2-B	Z2-BM	*BBB*	Bi?
1828	452	3-C	TD O-117		(?)
1828	453	4-D	Z4-AP	*Mexican Head*	GS
1829	454	11-B	Z3-BZ	*Pointed Wing*	Bi, Ag
1829	455	3-C	TD O-111		(?)
1830	456	5-E	Z16-CT		Ag
1831	457	4-D	Cast O-119		(?)
1832	458	12-L	Z8-DO	*Buck-Toothed Eagle*	Bi
1832	459	4-D	Cast O-107		(?)
1832	460	5-E	Z19-DZ		GS
1833	461	9-I	Z1-F	*Clinton Head*	Bi
1833	462	10-J	Z33-FG		GS
1833	463	11-K	Z9-DM	*Buck-Toothed Eagle*	Bi
1833	464	4-D	Z20-ET	*Dotted Feather*	GS
1833	465	Unl.	TD O-105		(?)
1833	466	2-B	Z17-EQ	*Mexican Head*	Bi; GS
1834	467	3-C	Cast O-121		(?)
1834	468	4-D	Cast O-107		Bz
1836	469	2-B	Z2-EN	*Smushed 8s*	Br?
1836	470	3-C	TD O-113		GS
1836-O	471	4-D	Z1-GL	*French Connection (FC)*	Br
1837	472	3-C	Z4-GP		GS
1838	473	2-B	Cast		(?)
1838	474	16-Q	Z15-HG		GS
1839-O	475	1-A	Z1-HL	*FC*	Br?
1839-O	476	2-B	Z2-HM	*FC*	Bz?
1839-O	477	3-C	TD		Br?

1960s. Don Taxay

It was not until about 120 years later when Don Taxay published *Counterfeit, Mis-Struck, and Unofficial U.S. Coins* in 1963. While Taxay recorded additional varieties of counterfeit CBHs, his book was not a comprehensive attempt to record counterfeits, rather it just exhibited a select group of 16 varieties dated from 1787 to 1842.

1970s. Farley and Witham

In the early 1970s, Floyd Farley and Stewart Witham, founding members of the Bust Half Nut Club, began to comprehensively study and record contemporary counterfeit CBHs. They identified about 85 different varieties, which was quite an achievement at this time especially since most numismatists were generally unfamiliar with, did not care about, or were apprehensive about the legality of handling contemporary counterfeit CBHs. Pieces were usually set aside by collectors and dealers as curiosities, and nothing more. One particular 1823 counterfeit CBH had an extensive history of being confused as a so-called U.S. mint pattern.

The piece in reference is the 1823 Davignon 1/A (Z1-AM). This counterfeit was published as #47 in J. Hewitt Judd's *United States Pattern, Experimental and Trial Pieces* edited by Abe Kosoff; only by the seventh edition was a footnote added as "authenticity questionable." In the interim, several collectors, including Stewart Witham, searched in vain for an example of this so-called pattern, only to conclude that the Judd reference was to a counterfeit.

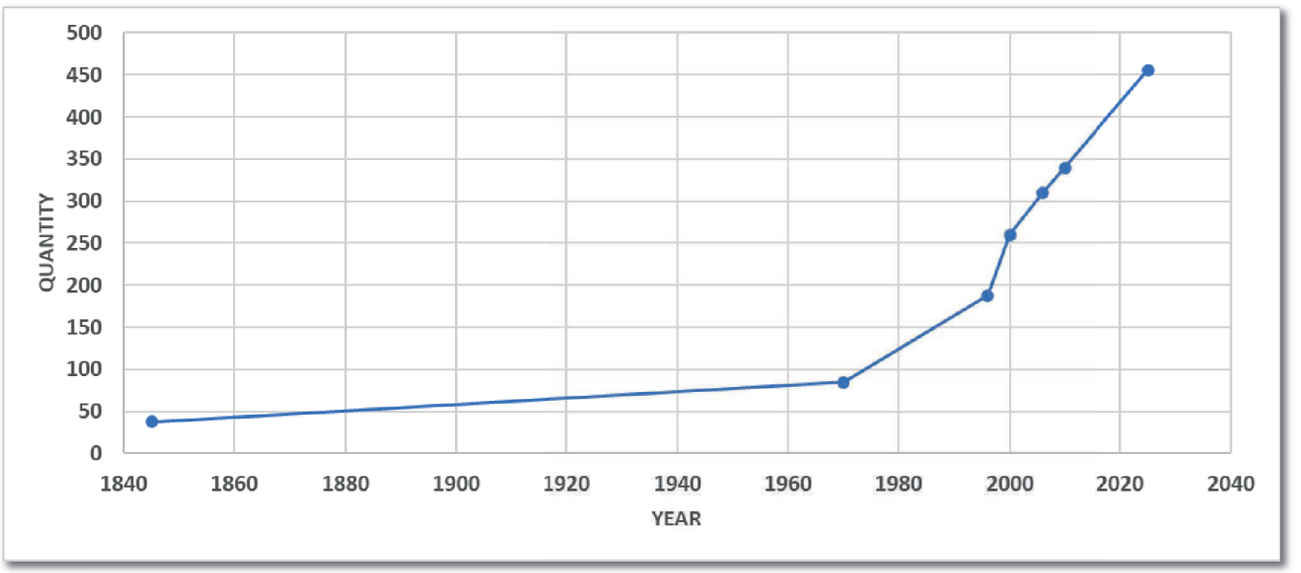
1990s. Keith Davignon

By the early 1990s another collector, Keith Davignon, started collecting and documenting these counterfeits. Davignon's interest started when he acquired an example at a coin show. It was an inexpensive curiosity which intrigued him because he knew nothing about them and he wanted to learn more about their history. He quickly learned, much to his surprise, that little had been published on these counterfeits at the time. Davignon found this unacceptable and he strived to know as much as possible about the counterfeits.

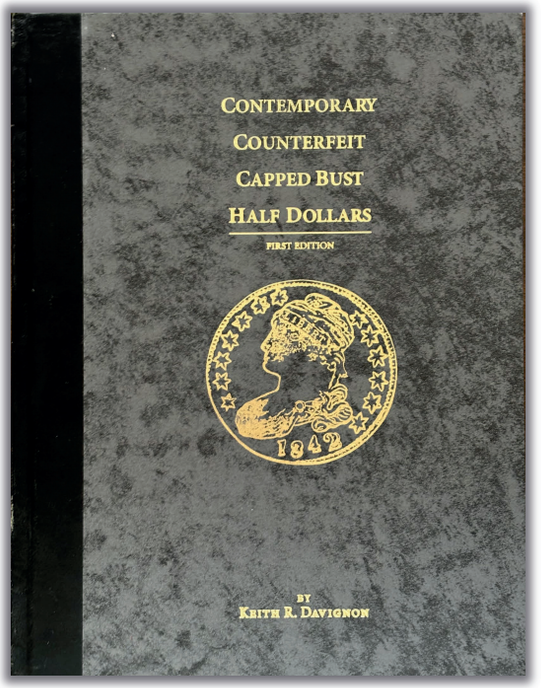
Davignon placed an ad in *Coin World* requesting information about these counterfeits. An old-time, well-known collector responded, correspondence ensued, and Davignon's interest grew.

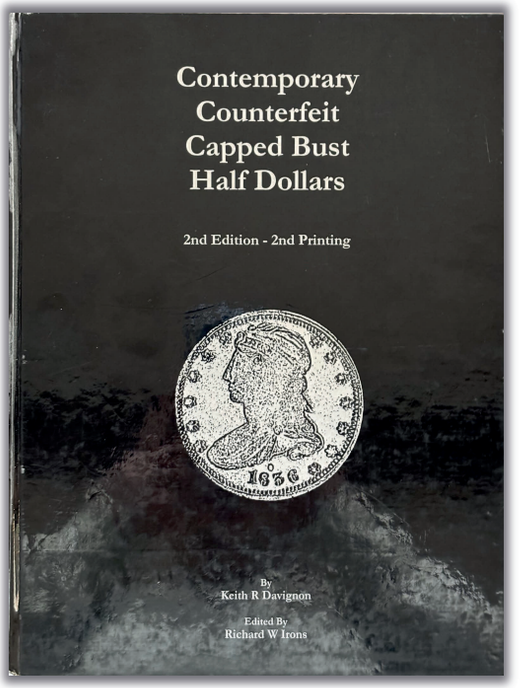
At first Davignon began to collect these while looking for them at shows in order to build a date-set. Several old-timers sold their modest collections of 5 to 10 examples to him. In a fairly short time, he had a modest collection. But it was not until Davignon started his own business, when money was tight, that this low-cost collecting diversion was systematically pursued in order to keep his numismatic passion going.

At this point Davignon became a research fanatic. He tried to find out everything possible, especially in *Numismatic Scrapbook* articles. Farley and Witham took note of his interest and efforts,



Contemporary counterfeit CBH varieties as reported from 1845 thru 2024.





Keith Davignon's First and Second Editions of *Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollars*.

contacted him and donated their notes in order to augment his research project. Davignon brought their loose-leaf binder of notes and photos to shows to see if new varieties could be identified. Eventually, Witham, Farley and Chuck Erb sold their sizable collections of counterfeits to Davignon. This formed the foundation of his counterfeit CBH reference collection. These examples, along with the acquisition of several smaller collections, eventually served as the foundation to Davignon's 1st edition.

However, publishing a book was never considered Keith's primary interest. He was doing research for research's sake. It was not until a few collectors and dealers told him, to his surprise, that collectors would buy such a book and would likely be passionate about this topic. So, Davignon considered publishing his research. He had a friend take all the photos. In 1996, approximately six months later, *Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollars,* was published documenting 188 varieties.

In 2000, John L. Kleeberg edited *Circulating Counterfeits of the Americas*, which was a compilation of presentations given at the 1998 Coinage of the America's Conference held at the American Numismatic Society in New York. Approximately 260 varieties of contemporary counterfeit Capped Bust half dollars had been recorded by then. Additionally, the first comprehensive review of pre-Capped Bust half dollar contemporary counterfeits was described in Appendix 2 by Kleeberg.

Davignon had recorded 310 varieties by August 2006 with descriptions documented in an unpublished monograph titled *Appendix Catalog of Die Varieties*.

In 2010, Davignon published his *2nd Edition* which recorded 340 varieties, almost doubling the number known in the *1st Edition*.

Between 2010 and this publication, dozens of new varieties collectively vetted by advanced collectors have been documented on the website www.cccbhcc.com. At the time of this publication, 456 different counterfeit CBH varieties are known. Over the last 25 years, on average 8 new varieties have been documented per year.

The quantity and rate of varieties reported since the 1970s has been exceptional. This is due in part to the interest generated by Davignon's work as well as a legion of new collectors. Since However, the rate of newly documented varieties has slowed over the last five years with an average of just 4 new varieties reported per year. Estimates are that we may one day reach 500 different varieties, but that may take until 2035 to 2040 to achieve.

Attributing Counterfeit CBHs

Reclassifying Davignon Varieties

Background

Creating a new classification system within a previously studied numismatic series, especially one that has been in place for decades and has been adopted by collectors, is generally seen as unpopular. Such an undertaking assumes that there are issues with the old classification system that a new system can fix and that this new classification system can improve our understanding of the series as a whole by more effectively answering research questions. The Davignon (D) (1996, 2010) classification system, while useful, does not go far enough in classifying CBHs and requires an overhaul to better understand this series.

Davignon documented, organized, and divided counterfeit CBH varieties by date without separating these by production method—hand-made die, transfer die, and cast. This system worked well initially when the scope of this subject was relatively manageable and not nearly as well understood as it is today. However, over time, researchers have found these attributions cumbersome when attempting to address specific research questions, especially those related to counterfeit families, and unique and shared dies across multiple dates.

Davignon's obverse number and reverse letter attribution system was confined to a single year, restarting for each new year. This is especially problematic and confusing for reverse dies which were paired with obverse dies from different years, and not actually unique as his format might suggest. In a few cases, the same obverse die was given different obverse number designations, causing further confusion. This left no way to introduce new discoveries in a clear and consistent manner from the existing D classification system. Recent coin attribution guides (e.g., Rea et al. (2010); Zack, Scuderi, & Sherrill (2016)) have begun to identify reverse die designations in the order in which they were used rather than having a unique identifier for each year.

In a handful of cases, Davignon inadvertently identified the same die marriage two or more times, such as 1838 17-R and 22-W, as separate and unique varieties. Many of these circumstances involved one well-struck example and the duplicate being multi-struck or low-grade where verifying unique attributes was difficult.

Finally, in at least 16 cases (Table 1.49) Davignon and others published and attributed genuine CBHs as counterfeits, such as 1808 Davignon 3-C which is a genuine but scratched O-104. In most of these circumstances, coins of low grade or damaged. While removing genuine coins from an updated edition partially resolves this matter, the net result is a classification system that is thrown out of sequence. D varieties attributed multiple times or found to be genuine coins are found in tables 1.48 and 14.9, respectively.

Zack Attribution System

Consistent with the other volumes in this series, counterfeit CBHs have been renamed to the Zack (Z) classification system. This system separates examples by the three production methods and arranges each chronologically. All Z-varieties are cross-referenced to valid Davignon varieties.

Specific caveats for each production method have also been added. For die struck varieties, known family varieties are presented and grouped together first, and singletons are segregated and placed at the end. An effort has also been made, for the first time, to attribute lettered edge dies, as discussed in the 'Attributing Lettered Edge Dies' section below. This revised classification system allows for a simpler understanding of shared and overlapping die use across counterfeit families.

For hand-made dies, all unique obverse dies are given a specific number just for that year, and each reverse die was given a unique letter designation across all years.

Transfer die and cast counterfeits are attributed as closely as possible to their respective Overton (O) variety.

Attributing Lettered Edge Dies

BACKGROUND

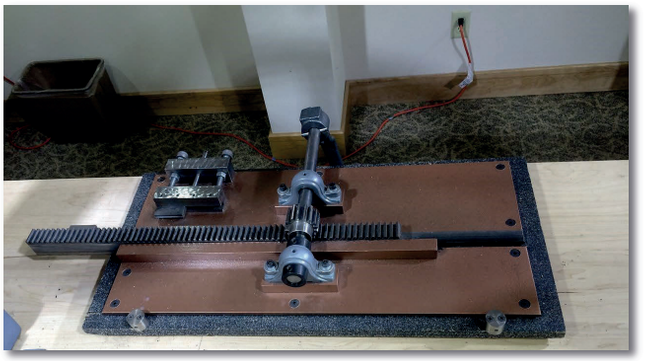
The third side of a coin is the edge. On genuine and counterfeit Bust half dollars you can usually find lettered (LE), letter-reeded (LRE), or reeded (RE) edges, as illustrated below. On rare occasions, but more so for the counterfeits, some of these edges are plain (PE) meaning they did not go through a castaing machine. On extremely rare cases some counterfeit CBHs are known with hand-lettered (HLE) or hand-reeded (HRE) edges.

Lettered edge (LE)

Lettered-reeded edge (LRE)

Reeded edge (RE)

The edge designs you see illustrated were created by a castaing machine which utilized two dies to apply the edge lettering before a coin was struck, as described as follows. "Each working edge die was composed of two bars, the first contained FIFTY CENTS OR [edge die 1 (E1)], and the second, HALF A DOLLAR and sometimes with a star '*' at the end [edge die 2 (E2)]. Each bar was hubbed separately as many edges show doubling on one bar opposite to the doubling on the other. The two bars were always in-



A Castaing machine, on display at the American Numismatic Association museum

1821 D.2-B/Z1-AD (left), from the *Square Tip* family, sharing the same LRE.105-AAF die as 1828 D.1-A/Z3-BA from the *Mexican Head* family (right). For example, (1) E2 is diagnostic with close spacing of LA in DOLLAR, and (2) the tilted rectangle (in lieu of a star) after Y. On the 1828 D.1-A/Z3-BA example, E2 has cracked between H and A in HALF, as circled.

serted as a pair into the castaing machine to form the edge die" (Leaman and Gunnet 1986). The planchet was then run through the machine imparting the incuse edge design. Edge die bars were replaced as they wore down, similar to obverse and reverse dies, sometimes resulting in overlapping edge die marriages.

Most counterfeiters of CBHs probably produced their planchets in-house as it would have simplified the production process and reduced the risk spreading the operation out amongst too many entities.

In other cases, it is hypothesized that some counterfeiters may have purchased planchets from third-party manufacturers. It is possible that these third-party manufacturers may have supplied multiple, independent counterfeiting operations simultaneously.

Research has found a common planchet source with identical lettered edge dies across multiple, presumably independent counterfeit CBH families. Specifically, this connection is being called *The Factory* Counterfeiter, indicative of a common planchet source; an example is shown on the preceding page. Another hypothesis is that previously believed and presumably distinct families were instead made under the same roof and those planchets were shared between those family operations. This could expand the prior definition of what it means to be a 'counterfeit family' as defined in the Glossary of prior editions of *Bad Metal*. Examining the edge devices and making associated connections are critical to our understanding of how these counterfeiters operated.

EDGE ATTRIBUTION

LE and LRE dies on Bust half dollars are just as unique as obverse and reverse dies. Yet, documenting and describing them with their individual characteristics, especially for the counterfeits is a tedious task that can be challenging for a variety of reasons.

Starting in the 1970s, Paul Munson began documenting LE dies on genuine DBHs dated 1801 to 1807 and developed an emission order (Leaman and Gunnet 1986). Subsequently, other researchers began documenting LE and LRE dies on CBHs dated 1807 to 1836 to study their emission order. Leaman and Gunnet (1986; 42) documented 552 working die bars on CBHs. Presumably, the CBH edge researchers described the edge dies in such a way to ensure their characteristics were recorded to avoid duplicative error but individual descriptions were not provided in Leaman and Gunnet (1986) to verify this. I am not aware where this documentation, if it exists, is located.

The challenges of documenting individual lettered edge dies is both a production and post-production problem to overcome.

The small size of the edge letters and words can be difficult to master when creating the edge bars. The edge bar lettering also needs to be thick enough to dig into the edge of the blank when cycled through the castaing machine. The finite space along the thickness of the blank requires keeping the blank as flat as possible when rolling it through the castaing machine in order to not tilt the blank causing some of the lettering to be cut off. The diameter of the blank also needs to fit snugly into the castaing machine, unless the castaing machine can be adjusted to fit variable blank sizes. In addition, the castaing machine itself may not be sophisticated enough to consistently and effectively impart the edge lettering, when compared to mint equipment.

External factors in circulation can also affect the visibility of edge lettering over time, especially on pieces that survive today. Normal wear, tear and abuse from circulation can wear down the edge. Questionable coins were also more prone to being checked for authenticity, and the edge was no exception as it could be scratched, gouged or shaved to check if a piece was plated base metal or not.

In general, the edge lettering on counterfeit half dollars is more variable, inconsistent, and difficult to read than the genuine counterpart. This is especially across the universe of all counterfeit Bust halves because there were so many different counterfeiters making them.

Nevertheless, it is just as important to document and attribute LE and LRE dies on counterfeit CBHs in the same way that obverse-reverse (O/R) dies are recorded. This further maximizes our overall understanding of these pieces, both individually and as a whole advancing our research on their production and emission sequences.

This publication is still in the infancy of this documentation effort and is being attempted and applied for the first time. As such, not all O/R varieties studied have lettered edges that can be adequately documented, described and attributed due to incomplete, unclear or missing lettering. Similarly, the small sample size of many varieties studied restricts the completeness of this effort. As a result, this publication leaves gaps in our current knowledge and understanding of individual O/R varieties, but this research will continue to be updated over time as more examples are studied.

In this publication, each clearly documented, described and unique LE or LRE die is attributed with a triple-digit attribution system in order to differentiate lettered edge dies from the single or double-digit O/R die marriage attribution system. Edge die attribution starts with a LE or LRE prefix followed by E1 having a unique triple-digit number (e.g., 100) and E2 having a unique triple-digit letter (e.g., AAA). Both edge dies, E1 and E2, count up for each different edge die documented. A written example of a LE would be LE.100-AAA and for LRE it would be LRE.100-AAA.

For those O/R die marriages currently without a clearly describable LE/LRE die, these are documented as either 'LE-Unattributable' or 'LRE-Unattributable', And if the edge is completely unclear or that O/R variety was unavailable for study these will usually be written as 'Lettered (?)'.

Attributed LE/LRE dies were described to the best of the author's current ability and availability of examples to study. Some, if not many edge die descriptions are still fairly basic and not as unique as would be helpful for collectors to easily and accurately attribute, especially in comparison to O/R die marriage descriptions. In many cases, edge die descriptions were developed after comparing one LE/LRE die against 100s of examples from more than 200 O/R die marriages in order to confirm that those LE/LRE die marriages are uniquely different, especially when it comes to word size, spacing, and font styles. This author also realizes most collectors do not have a large reference collection with duplicate examples of O/R die marriages to make these comparisons for cross-referencing to existing LE/LRE die marriage descriptions. Therefore, given that attributing counterfeit CBH edge die marriages is still in its infancy, collectors are encouraged to use their best professional judgement regarding LE/LRE die attributions.

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of LE/LRE attributions. However, the potential remains that some documented and attributed counterfeit CHB LE/LRE dies in this publication have been inadvertently given two different attributions when they are in fact the same. If such an error has occurred it will be corrected over time.

In addition, we are missing LE/LRE die descriptions and attributions from many counterfeit CBH O/R varieties. Similarly, we have probably not exhausted the documented variability of LE/LRE die marriages for a given O/R variety. For these reasons, when an O/R variety with a previously unattributed LE/LRE die marriage is encountered, those edges will be described and documented to the maximum extent possible, and that information will be shared publicly. Collectors are also encouraged, wherever possible, to contribute to this effort by writing their own LE/LRE edge die descriptions and updating existing descriptions, and notifying this author or other individual keeping these records to add to the body of knowledge.

Supplemental Appendix A of this book includes photos and descriptions of all presently documented LE/LRE die marriages to the best of the author's ability. Edge die marriages are also cross-referenced within the O/R variety section of this book.

ATTRIBUTING REEDED EDGE DIES

Reeded edges have not been specifically studied to identify if these can be matched with other reeded edge varieties. Counting the number of reeds, odd reed spacing, and looking for reeding defects will be the easiest way to attribute individual reeded edge dies. Future research and documentation may provide this refined level of detail.

Hand-Made Dies

At present, 321 hand-made, die struck counterfeit CBH varieties have been documented. All years from 1811 to 1842, plus 1847, have been recorded. 251 hand-made die varieties (and separately six transfer die varieties) are associated with 36 families; one of these families, *Lumpy*, is composed of a mix of hand-made, transfer die, and a hybrid variety. These family groupings range in size from two to 32 varieties. Some of these families will grow as a result of newly identified varieties, additional research, and associated connections. Additional information about each family, including the still-hypothetical *The Factory* counterfeiter family, is discussed below.

The number of die marriages identified per family does not necessarily represent the scope and scale of overall production within any operation. Instead, the number of obverse and reverse dies documented per family is a better indicator. For example, the production quantity of each O/R die marriage can vary widely based on the organization and efficiency, or lack thereof, of an operation, along with die quality, die hardness and failure or retirement rate. What is seen in most counterfeit CBH families is an equal or greater number of obverse dies compared to reverse dies documented. This suggests that the obverse die was normally, if not always the hammer die which likely failed at a quicker rate than the reverse, or anvil, die. Only two families have been documented with more reverse dies than obverse dies, *Pointed Wing* and *1830 Counterfeiter*.

Based on voluntary census data collected from the website cccbhcc.com and this author, more than 4,000 hand-made, die-struck counterfeit CBHs have been documented; the total surviving population is estimated to be somewhere between 10,000 and 25,000 pieces. The quantity of reported examples listed for each variety should be considered approximately proportional to all other varieties. For example, most of these varieties have three or fewer examples documented. However, this does not mean they will remain this rare over time.

A CASE STUDY

Variability over time on the obverse and reverse designs of genuine CBHs by the Philadelphia mint confused some the public and made it harder to identify counterfeits. This issue was a bit of an advantage to counterfeiters who created hand-made dies of varying levels of skill. In the past it seems that it was more about the planchet details (alloy, size, weight), and less the obverse and reverse artistic design quality that resolved the question of CBH authenticity. Today, the opposite is regularly the case, although all of the

Photo postcard of the first Philadelphia Mint, 'Ye Olde Mint' (circa 1910).

major and respected third-party grading (TPG) services from the prior two decades are guilty of authenticating as genuine and grading circulating contemporary counterfeit CBHs; an example of this is shown below.

So as to minimize a counterfeit CBH from being easily spotted as not genuine or questionable, many if not most counterfeiters of die struck CBHs appear to have attempted to create or acquire planchets that were roughly similar in dimension to genuine CBHs. This required planchets to pass any of the four-factor, non-destructive checks for authenticity conducted at the time, including having the proper width, weight, edge lettering or reeding, and a ring when dropped on a hard surface; planchet thickness appears to have been less important to consider relative to checking the accuracy of edge lettering.

In order to check how well counterfeit CBH planchets compared to genuine CBHs, a study of more than 400 hand-made die struck counterfeit CBHs representing 216 different varieties was conducted. Those results are summarized and discussed below.

1825 Z3-AM in a TPG service holder.

Counterfeit CBH planchets are quite variable in terms of dimensions. This variability and inconsistency exist within the same die marriage, within the same family (if applicable), and between all other varieties. Factors that may cause this include, but are not limited to, variation in the thickness of rolled metal, striking pressure, and effects from circulation.

The average diameter of the studied lettered edge counterfeit planchets is 32.55 mm. This is 0.05 mm wider than genuine CBHs of the same type which are 32.50 mm. This marginal extra width would not be noticeable in-hand. However, the range of measured widths was from 30.85 to 34.45 mm. These measured extremes would have been noticeable, especially when stacked together with genuine CBHs, and would have caused them to be scrutinized further.

The transition from the wider and heavier lettered edge CBH planchets to the reduced diameter and weight reeded edge planchets was apparently not a problem for counterfeiters. Nearly all of the studied counterfeit CBH die marriages with machine-reeded edges show discretely reduced diameters relative to the likes of their lettered edge counterparts; the only exception to these results is from the *Never Too Late* family which continued to produce wider and heavier planchets despite their varieties having both lettered edges and reeded edges.

In addition, most counterfeit CBH planchets are slightly oval in shape though the degree of elongation is usually fairly minimal. On average, the counterfeit CBH planchets that were measured were less than 0.10 mm wider in one direction, an amount not noticeable in-hand. However, the most elongated oval planchet measurement was on an example of 1826 Z3-BG where it was 1.37 mm (4.2%) wider than its corresponding perpendicular dimension.

Planchet weight was regularly used to check for authenticity. This could have been achieved by hand, especially for lighter cast counterfeits, or if a scale or mechanical counterfeit detector was available those would be used. Genuine lettered edge CBHs weighed 13.48 grams when new and advanced circulated examples could be reduced

to about 12 grams for a loss of about 11% of their original weight; a similar proportion is seen on reeded edge CBHs.

In this study, with the counterfeit CBHs in their current circulated condition, approximately 10% of examples (n=43) and varieties (n=36) weigh more than the original mint weight; this proportion of overweight planchets was presumably higher in the past before pieces lost weight from circulation. In contrast, 42% of examples (n=170) analyzed weigh less than the lower-end of heavily circulating genuine lettered and reeded edge CBHs, respectively; this proportion of low-weight counterfeit CBH planchets was likely lower in the past when pieces were first struck and weighed a little more. Nevertheless, approximately half of the counterfeit CBHs studied would normally fail the weight test for authenticity when they were produced, and conversely half would probably pass this test.

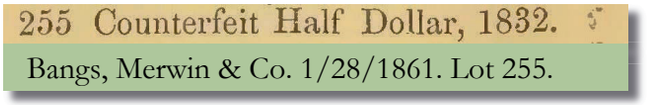
Over 90% of the counterfeit CBH varieties studied are known with the accurate lettered or reeded edge type relative to the date of the coin. The other 10% of varieties either have plain edges, the wrong edge type for the date/design, and/or the edge lettering was no longer visible assuming it was once present.

Finally, since hand-made die counterfeit CBHs were struck, that compressive force on the planchet alloy allows for almost all examples to resonate when dropped on a hard surface.

In conclusion, on average, counterfeiters of die struck CBHs were very good at meeting all four factors of authenticity and seemingly many counterfeit CBHs circulated without suspicion for many years. It was the outlier planchets and associated varieties which were likely the first pieces actively removed from circulation. What affect this had on the surviving specimens which have come down to us is unknown.

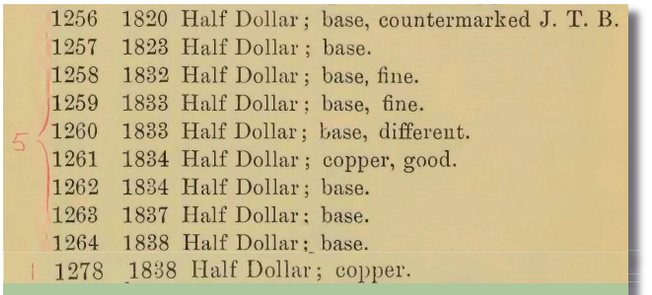
COLLECTING

Authentic CBHs have been popular to collect for decades. However, collecting hand-made, die struck counterfeits has really only gained popularity since the late 1990s with the 1996 publication of Davignon's book, *Contemporary Counterfeit Capped Bust Half Dollars*. Nevertheless, numismatists have been buying and selling counterfeit CBHs since the early 1860s and throughout the 19th century. This is specifically indicated from historical auctions where such pieces were sold like Bangs, Merwin & Co., Cogan, Ebenezer Locke Mason, F. Trifet & Co., and W. Elliot Woodward. The earliest confirmed public sale of a counterfeit CBH was in the January 28, 1861 Bangs, Merwin & Co. sale (lot 255).


255 Counterfeit Half Dollar, 1832.

Bangs, Merwin & Co. 1/28/1861. Lot 255.

Another notable sale was from the collection of J. Colvin Randall auctioned on June 29, 1885 by Woodward in which ten pieces were sold as lots 1256 through 1264 and 1278. This was the largest documented sale of a collection of counterfeit CBHs from the 19th century; lot 1256 has not been documented in the modern era.


1256 1820 Half Dollar; base, countermarked J. T. B.
1257 1823 Half Dollar; base.
1258 1832 Half Dollar; base, fine.
1259 1833 Half Dollar; base, fine.
1260 1833 Half Dollar; base, different.
1261 1834 Half Dollar; copper, good.
1262 1834 Half Dollar; base.
1263 1837 Half Dollar; base.
1264 1838 Half Dollar; base.
1278 1838 Half Dollar; copper.

Woodward. 6/29/1885. Lots 1256-1264, 1278.

Modern numismatists have also shown a keen interest in collecting counterfeit CBHs by variety and family. This is probably the case given their long history of being catalogued, the quantity of surviving examples, the vast number of documented varieties, varying die quality, along with their large size and the strong base of collectors of genuine CBHs. In recent years, collectors have purchased hand-made, die struck counterfeit CBHs for $5 to $1,000. The most common varieties typically sell for between $30 and $50; higher-grade examples can sell for $100 to $150. Scarce varieties typically sell for about $75 to $150; higher-grade examples may have a 50% premium. Rare and very scarce varieties typically sell for $150 to $350; due to their rarity there is currently little or no premium for higher-grade examples. Fantasy dates, exceptionally crude dies, and other factors tend to account for the highest prices paid for counterfeit CBH varieties. Ultimately, collector demand will dictate how the value of these pieces trend over time.

Meet the Families

In Davignon's first edition (1996), he wrote:

> "*One cannot help wondering as one looks upon a group of bogus coins who made them, and whether the same person may have been responsible for several different 'coins'. When examining a large quantity of dates and varieties, spread out side by side on a table, stylistic similarities tend to 'jump' out at you*".

It is true that the products of many counterfeiters share similar artistic die elements across dies. They also interchangeably used obverse and reverse dies resulting in overlapping die use from which part or all of an emission sequence can sometimes be recreated. In many cases, counterfeit CBH planchets have lettered edges which are as unique as obverse and reverse dies. Therefore, a counterfeit CBH family can be identified based on the combination of related and matching obverse and reverse dies and die elements as well as, in some cases, matching edge dies.

In Davignon's 2010 *Second Edition*, he formally named six counterfeit CBH families and noted the similarity of several other varieties. Since then, work by this author and other researchers has expanded the number of counterfeit CBH families.

Currently, there are 36 recorded counterfeit CBH families as summarized in Table 1.5. Two of these families, *8 Reales Edge* and *Anachronistic,* are solely composed of transfer die varieties as described in Tables 1.43 and 1.44. These 36 fami-

Table 1.5. Counterfeit CBH Families

Family Nickname	Varieties	Obv	Rev
Clinton Head	32	29	18
Mexican Head	22	20	16
Buck-Toothed Eagle	22	20	16
Pointed Wing	17	14	16
BBB	15	14	11
Smushed 8's	15	13	11
Ski Nose	13	13	6
Square Tip	12	9	8
French Connection	8	8	8
Lumpy	8	7	5
Stone	7	7	5
Mint Mimicked	6	6	5
Y 1's	5	5	5
Sans Serif S	5	5	3
Top Gun	5	5	2
Never Too Late	5	5	1
Fancy 5s	5	4	3
Too Legit to Quit	5	4	2
Puckered Lips	5	5	4

Table 1.5. Counterfeit CBH Families

Family Nickname	Varieties	Obv	Rev
Stumpy Lower Arrow	4	3	2
Indented Left Wing	3	3	3
Bug-Eyed	3	3	3
Long Neck	3	3	2
Late Comer	3	2	2
Medalist	3	3	1
Dotted Feather	3	2	2
Fantasy	3	2	2
1830 Counterfeiter	3	1	3
Long Talon	2	2	2
Raised Liberty	2	2	2
Pretty Perfect	2	2	2
Bumpy Nose	2	2	2
Provisional	2	2	2
Droopy Leaves	2	1	2
8 Reales Edge (TD)	3	3	3
Anachronistic (TD)	2	2	1
TOTAL:	257	226	176

lies include 257 varieties. Six of these varieties are transfer die marriages, while the remaining 251 are from hand-made or hybrid (hand-made and transfer die) die marriages. This currently represents approximately 78% of the entire population of hand-made and hybrid die marriages. It is nearly certain that other documented singletons and presently undocumented varieties will be added to these families. As well, new families will be created in the future as a result of additional research and reporting.

If a variety lacks a shared die or other definitive artistic similarities, they are considered singletons; singletons can be moved into a family after further research or new discoveries. It is likely that some currently listed as singleton varieties are associated with existing families. It is also possible that two or more singleton varieties may result in a new family being created as a result of additional research and documentation. For example, some documented singletons have similar artistic qualities to each other, such as some of the high-quality 1830, 1831, and 1832 varieties. However, these varieties do not have overlapping O/R die use and no edge die matches have yet been made which would connect these to a common manufacturer.

It is also worth noting that we do not definitively know where any of the counterfeit CBH varieties were made, including these families. Instead, we are left to our hypotheses. As such, and unless stated differently for any of the individual families listed below, all other counterfeit CBH families are thought to have been produced somewhere in the northeastern U.S. This idea is supported because this type of industry was more common there than elsewhere, and Riddell documented only a few varieties from smaller families.

This is the 'Counterfeiter House' (postcard). "It was built in 1840 on Gift Ridge, Adams County, Ohio. Counterfeit $500 bills and 50 cent pieces were made here and distributed to Ohio River boats which received a light signal from the gable window."

The Factory

The Factory is a working hypothesis counterfeiting operation made up of six artistically discrete families based on obverse and reverse die characteristics: *Clinton Head (CH)*, *Buck-Toothed Eagle (BTE)*, *Pointed Wing (PW)*, *Puckered Lips (PL)*, *Mexican Head (MH)*, *Square Tip (ST)*, and the singleton's 1833 Z34-FH and 1827 Z3-BL. The common denominator connecting these families and singleton are the shared planchets and associated matching lettered edge die marriages used between two or more of these families. The relationship between lettered edge die marriages and O/R families is shown in Table 1.6. Currently, no obverse and reverse die punch links are known between these O/R die families.

Collectively, 98 obverse and 79 reverse dies have been documented resulting in the creation of 111 die marriages. This accounts for more than a third of all currently documented handmade, die struck counterfeit CBH varieties. Unsurprisingly, the majority of obverse dies are dated to the 1830s (n=66), followed by the 1820s (n=25), and a total of six dies are associated with the 1810s (n=4), 1840 (n=1), and two NDR.

In order to produce all these dies, multiple die sinkers were likely involved over several years. The skill of these die sinkers and quality of dies produced suggests mediocre experience. However, if there were additional pressures on die production speed, die quality may have been sacrificed to meet those demands.

The XRF confirmed planchet alloys used for each O/R variety were limited to billon (67%), German silver (32%), and copper (1%; just four die marriages). All O/R varieties struck on copper planchets were also struck on billon and/or German silver planchets but never solely on copper planchets. The data above was calculated such that if an O/R variety was only struck on one planchet alloy it would be counted as a whole. But if an O/R variety was struck on two or three different planchet alloys, they were counted as either a half or a third, respectively, in association with the above percentages. This explains how four varieties struck on copper planchets are represented by just one percent of the overall total.

Along the planchet edges, there are presently 18 E.1 and 18 E.2 dies documented. Several varieties have yet to be studied or their planchet edges were not clear. This may result in more documented edge dies being used. The majority of edge dies are lettered, while lettered-reeded edge dies are largely confined to the *MH* family.

CONCLUSIONS

This association of artistically discrete families connected by planchet characteristics, rather

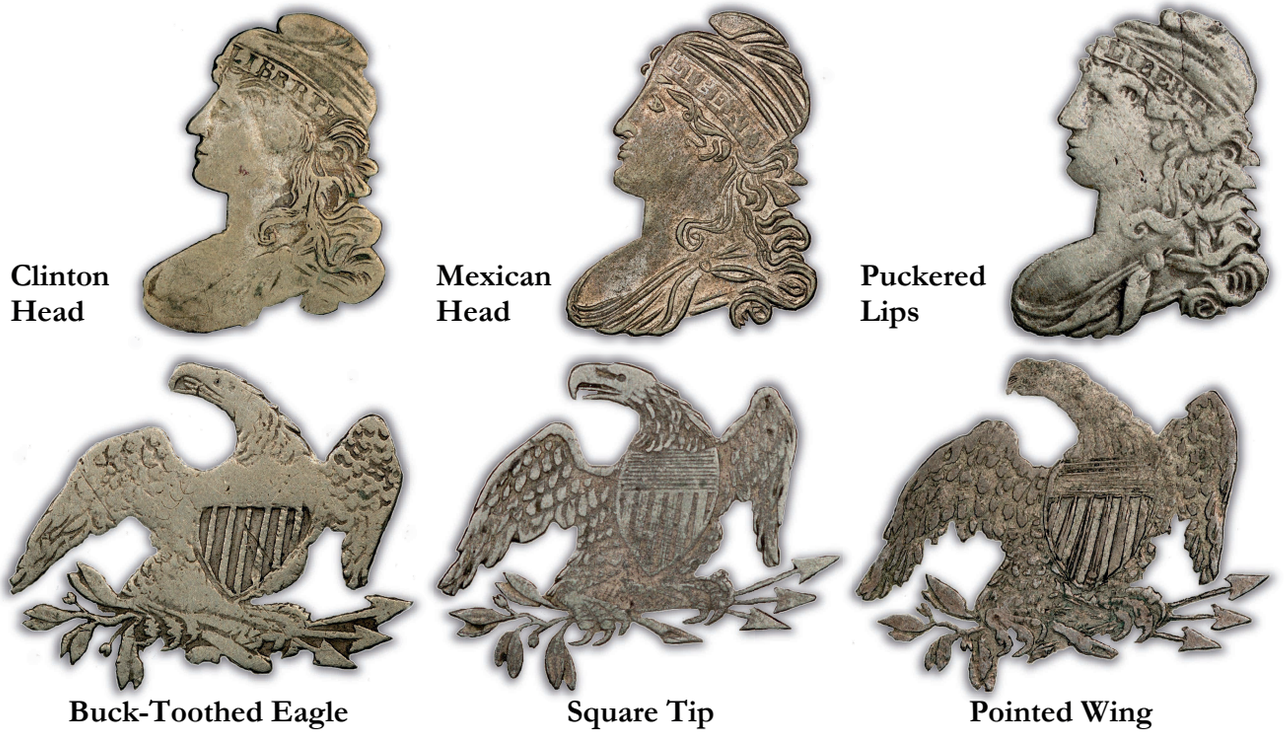
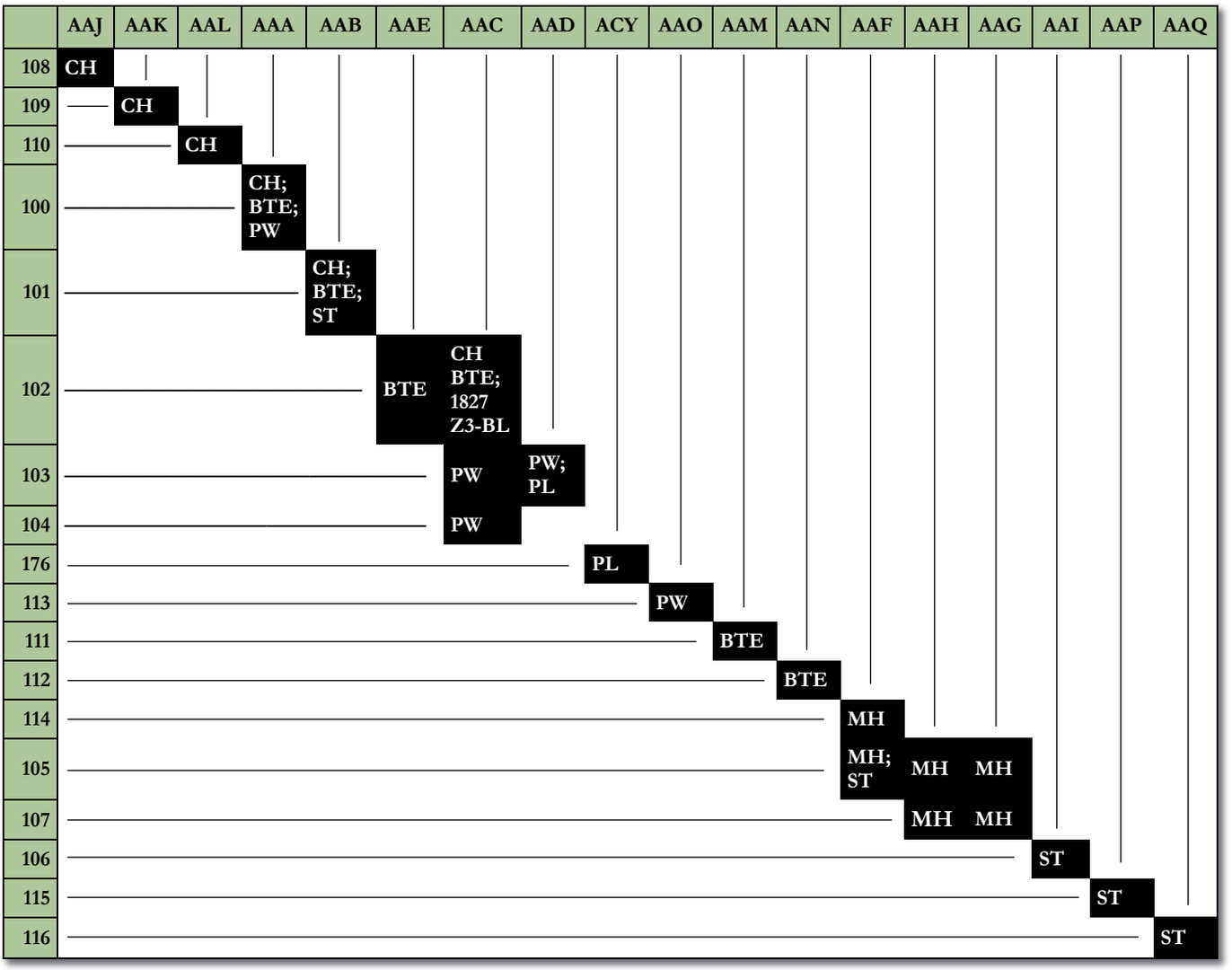


Table 1.6. *The Factory* Counterfeiter Lettered Edge Chart



This table is illustrated in the most visually clustered manner possible relative to family name.

than just O/R dies, is a unique case amongst counterfeit CBHs and possibly all other counterfeit U.S. coin series. The current lack of overlapping O/R die use between counterfeiting families is intriguing. It suggests production of each family was completed in discrete events or simultaneously but separately by different die sinkers.

In order to produce all these dies and strike these counterfeits efficiently required a well-organized labor force divided between die sinkers, metallurgists, planchet makers, and coiners. Logistically, the location of such an operation where machinery, materials and transportation were readily available suggests an origin in or around a major city in the northeastern U.S. All of these counterfeits were likely made in the late 1830s to early 1840s based on obverse year and planchet characteristics. This time period and estimated location of origin is also supported by the Riddell (1845) reporting, discussed earlier.

Nevertheless, many important questions remain unanswered and information is still incomplete about the connectedness of these counterfeit families. For example, did a different die sinker create each unique artistic family, or were some die sinkers responsible for multiple families? If there were multiple die sinkers involved in this counterfeiting operation, did they work side-by-side, or did they produce dies separately and upon request and have them delivered to the counterfeiter's mint? If such a larger counterfeiting operation existed, is there any contemporary documentation specifying where and when these were made and by whom? It seems nearly improbable that an operation of this size could go unnoticed for so long. This author hopes this information will be uncovered one day to more completely understand this subject as a whole.

Clinton Head

The *Clinton Head* (CH) family was named by Davignon (1996) for its portrait resembling president Bill Clinton. There are 32 documented varieties using 29 obverse dies dated 1813, 1814, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, and 1838, along with 18 reverse dies. Two varieties were plated in Riddell (1845), 1814 Z1-G and 1833 Z1-F.

It is hypothesized that Table 1.7 closely represents the emission order for this family. For example, the first dies and six die marriages listed, 1833 Z1-F to 1838 Z1-G, have relatively crude die workmanship and are thought to have been created first. After these dies were used, the remaining dies improved in overall quality. Undocumented die marriages are anticipated to be discovered and this will likely result in updates to this table.

From 30+ examples studied, most varieties were struck on billon planchets while the balance were struck on German silver planchets, and 1835 Z4-EH was struck on both planchet alloys. No examples have been reported on brass or copper planchets as reported in Davignon (2010).

Overall, the planchet dimensions were inconsistent. Extant examples weigh an average of 12.2 grams (+/- 1.5 grams). The average planchet diameter is 32.6 mm but the range is between 31.4 and 34.5 mm. Planchet thickness is fairly uniform at around 1.83 mm (+/- 0.2 mm).

The planchets have been documented with five different lettered or lettered-reeded edge die marriages. Edge 101-AAB is found on varieties from the *CH*, *BTE* and *ST* families, and edge 100-AAA is found on most of the documented *CH* die marriages as well as on three varieties from the *BTE* family and one *PT* family. Edge 100-AAA is known most commonly without reeding between words. However, reeding between the words has been documented in association with both 1833 Z3-EE from the *CH* family and 1830 Z11-CO from the *BTE* family. The reeded edge version of this edge die is specially designated as edge 100r-AAAr with the 'r' representing reeding. Why reeding was added between these words is not currently known.

Three other edge die marriages, 108-AAJ, 109-AAK, and 110-AAL, were used in association with four O/R die marriages. Nevertheless, many O/R die marriages have either not been studied or the available examples did not have clear edge lettering.

All varieties are rare or very scarce. 1833 Z3-EE is the most common variety from this family with at least 10 examples documented. However, no examples of 1814 Z1-G have been reported since Riddell (1845). Currently, the average rarity for each of these die marriages is less than three. Fewer than 100 total examples across all varieties have been documented and the total surviving population may not be more than 200 examples.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a couple years between 1839 and 1842. This time period is estimated for a couple reasons. The *CH* family shared lettered edge planchets with the *BTE* family which struck pieces dated as late as 1840, thus placing this family in a similar production time frame. We also see a mix of billon and German silver planchets placing these counterfeits in a post-1837 time period, and probably off-set from this by a couple years.

This operation was likely located in the northeastern U.S. where so many other similar counterfeiting operations were located at that time. Furthermore, the general absence of reported examples by Riddell (1845) likely suggests a point of origin far away and outside of the Mississippi River valley.

Table 1.7. ***Clinton Head***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.	Notes
1833	1	F	108	AAJ	Bi	R7	461	9-I	
1831	1	F	100	AAA	Bi	R8		13-M	
1813	1	F	100	AAA	Bi	R8		1-A	
1813	1	G	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		1-C	
1814	1	G	(?)	(?)	(Bi?)	***R9***	440	1-A	
1838	1	G	100	AAA	Bi	R8		23-X	
1834	3	EG	100	AAA	(Bi?)	R8		22-V	
1833	5	EG	100	AAA	Bi	R8		28-CC	
1835	3	EG	100	AAA	(Bi?)	R8		8-H	
1835	6	FP	102	AAC	Bi	R8		12-L	This edge is almost exclusively known on the *Buck-Toothed Eagle* family.
1834	7	FP	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		Unl.	
1835	7	FV	100	AAA	Bi	R7		11-K	
1832	5	DL	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		Unl.	
1833	2	DL	100	AAA	Bi	R8		32-GG	
1836	1	DL	100	AAA	GS	R8		19-S	
1834	2	DL	100	AAA	Bi	R8		12-L	
1833	4	EF	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		23-W	
1834	4	FM	100	AAA	GS	R8		13-M	
1834	14	IK	100	AAA	GS	R8		Unl	
1834	1	CZ	100	AAA	Bi	R8		21-U	
1831	3	CZ	100	AAA	Bi	R8		Unl.	
1831	2	CY	100	AAA	Bi	R8		19-S	
1835	4	ID	100	AAA	Bi	R8		Unl.	
1835	4	EH	100	AAA	GS	R7		5-E	
1835	4	EH	(?)	(?)	Bi	R7		5-E	
1833	6	EH	(?)	(?)	(GS?)	R8		30-EE	
1835	8	FW	100	AAA	GS	R7		17-Q	
1833	3	FW	100	AAA	Bi	R8		Unl.	
1833	3	EE	100r	AAAr	Bi	R7		5-E	
1838	2	GW	109	AAK	GS	R7		4-D	
1834	5	FN	110	AAL	GS	R8		15-O	
1834	6	FO	110	AAL	Bi	R7		17-Q	
1835	5	FO	101	AAB	Bi	R8		Unl.	

Mexican Head

The *Mexican Head* (MH) family was named by Davignon (1996) presumably for its similarity to Aztec portraits. There are 22 documented varieties using 20 obverse dies dated 1822, 1825, 1828, 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1835 and 1838, along with 16 reverse dies. 1820s dated varieties are generally found weakly struck, possibly to simulate wear. Two varieties were plated in Riddell (1845), 1828 Z4-AP and 1833 Z17-EQ. Nearly all *MH* varieties are rare, a few are very scarce or scarce, while 1833 Z17-EQ is common.

Stylistically, there are two design classes for this family, summarized in the table below. There are five Class 1 varieties with small, flat-top numbers, stars, and letters, and all are rare. There are 16 Class 2 varieties with large, rounded numbers, stars, and letters, and these are more frequently encountered. Class 1.5, known only on 1835 Z9-FX, is a transition variety with a Class 2 obverse and a Class 1 reverse.

Table 1.8. *Mexican Head* Design Classes

CLASS	DATE	STARS	LETTERS
1	Small	Small	Small
1.5	Large	Large	Small
2	Large	Large	Large

Small Date

Large Date

Small Letters

Large Letters

More than 50 examples were studied. Most varieties were struck on German silver planchets while a handful were struck on billon planchets. 1833 Z17-EQ is known on both German silver and billon planchets. No varieties have been documented as struck on brass or copper as reported in Davignon (2010).

Overall, the planchet dimensions were fairly inconsistent, and this is found both within the same variety and between all other varieties. Extant examples have planchets weighing on average 11.9 grams, but this ranges from 10.2 to 15.5 grams. The average planchet diameter was 32.5 mm with most examples within 0.5 mm of this measure. Finally, the average planchet thickness was 1.87 mm, although some unusually thick planchets are also known from 2.2 to 2.38 mm.

There are five documented lettered edge die marriages, and two Class 1 varieties are known with reeded edges. Many lettered edge dies overlap creating an edge die emission sequence.

1833 Z17-EQ is an intriguing variety to study due to the diversity of planchet combinations, namely edge types and die marriages along with planchet weight and thickness, used in its striking. This has resulted in at least six different planchet sub-varieties. It is not clear why some planchet metal was rolled so thick resulting in overweight blanks.

1833 Z17-EQ and 1835 Z9-FX are listed multiple times in the table below because they are known to have been struck on planchets with different lettered edge die marriages.

Table 1.9. 1833 Z17-EQ

E.1	E.2	Alloy	Weight (g)	Diameter (mm)	Thickness (mm)
PE	PE	GS	~12.00 g	~32.5	~1.90
PE	AAG				
107					
105			14.75 g	33.8	2.06
	AAF		~15.25 g	32.7	~2.30
			~11.75 g	31.8	~1.86

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for multiple years anywhere from the late 1830s to early 1840s. This is supported by XRF analysis of the planchets, two examples being reported by Riddell, and the quantity of dies and die marriages created. The Class 1 varieties may have been created first given the relative crudeness of the die work in association with the limited quantity of surviving examples.

It is difficult to estimate where this operation was located, but probably the northern U.S. due to how few varieties were reported by Riddell; these varieties were probably not made in Mexico as has been speculated based on the style of the obverse portrait.

Table 1.10. ***Mexican Head***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.	Notes
1838	6	GX	RE		GS	R8		15-P	Class 1
1835	12	FZ	HRE		GS	R8		18-R	Class 1
1835	11	FY	114	AAF	Bi	R8		16-P	Class 1
1835	10	FX			Bi	R7		9-I	Class 1
1835	9		105	AAH	Bi	R8		6-F	Class 1.5
1828	8	BQ			GS	R8		Unl.	
1833	19	ES	107		GS	R7		18-R	Class 1
				AAG	Bi				
1828	7	BP			GS	R7		11-K	Gang punches used
1833	17	EQ			GS	R4	466	2-B	Plain, half, & full edge. ~12g
1828	4	AP			GS	R5	453	4-D	
1831	9				GS	R8		2-U	
		AO			GS	R8		2-B	
1832	2				GS	R7		8-H	
1822	7		(?)		Bi	R8		3-C	
1830	8		105		GS	R8		Unl.	
1828	6	BO			GS	R7		7-G	
1831	10	DA			GS	R8		8-H	
1833	18	ER			GS	R8		17-Q	
1833	17	EQ			GS	R4	466	2-B	Heavy planchet (14.75g)
				AAF	GS				Heavy (15.5g) & light (11.7g)
1828	3	BA			GS	R6		1-A	
		AZ			GS	R8		1-P	
1825	5				GS	R6		4-D	
1828	5	BN			GS	R7		5-E	

Buck-Toothed Eagle

The *Buck-Toothed Eagle* (*BTE*) family was named by Davignon (1996) for the distinct shape of the eagle's beak. There are 22 documented varieties using 20 obverse dies dated 1830, 1831, 1832, 1833, 1835, 1838, and 1840, along with 16 reverse dies. The 1840 die is an outlier and may have been made in anticipation of the Philadelphia Mint continuing to produce coins with this design during that year. Two varieties were plated in Riddell (1845), 1832 Z8-DO and 1833 Z9-DM. All varieties are rare, very scarce or scarce.

From 45 examples studied, nearly all examples were struck on billon planchets; only 1835 Z1-DE is not known struck on a billon planchet but instead German silver. 1831 Z14-DE was struck on billon, German silver and copper planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions were moderately consistent with relatively little variability. The average planchet weighs 12.1 grams (+/- 2.5 grams) and that range is dependent on planchet thickness rather than diameter. The average planchet diameter is 32.7 mm (+/- 0.8 mm), while thickness is 1.84 mm (+/- 0.15 mm in most cases).

The planchets are known with six different lettered edge die marriages. Edge die marriage 102-AAC is the most common amongst O/R die marriages, and is also known on singleton variety 1827 Z3-BL. Edges 100-AAA and 101-AAB were also used on *CH* family varieties. Nevertheless, many varieties and examples from this family have indistinct and difficult to read edge lettering, making attributing edge die marriages challenging.

It is probably not coincidental that the only two *BTE* die marriages struck on German silver

planchets have the same lettered edge die marriage, 100-AAA, as many *CH* family varieties. In addition, edge die 101-AAB is also shared between one *BTE* and one *CH* family variety. This shared use of planchets suggests and likely signals a transition from the production of one counterfeit CBH family to another, but it is currently unknown which family was being produced first.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for numerous years between the late 1830s and 1840. This is based on the *terminus post quem* of the 1840 die, two shared edge dies with the *CH* family indicating a production overlap, and a *terminus ante quem* of 1845 as a result of two examples being documented by Riddell.

This operation was probably located in the northeastern U.S. given its association with the *CH* family and the relative absence of reported examples by Riddell likely suggesting a point of origin far away and outside of the Mississippi River valley.

Table 1.11. ***Buck-Toothed Eagle***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.	Notes
1835	1	DE	100	AAA	GS	R8		10-J	Edge used on *Clinton Head* family varieties.
1831	14				GS	R7		7-G	
					Cu				
					Bi				
1830	11	CO	100(r)	AAA(r)	Bi	R6		9-I	
1830	23		(?)	(?)	Bi (?)	R8		Unl.	
1835	2	FU	101	AAB	Bi	R6		2-B	Edge used on *Clinton Head* family varieties.
			112	AAN					
1830	10	CN	102	AAC	Bi	R6		6-F	
1831	15	DF			Bi	R7		14-N	
		IE			Bi	R8		Unl.	
1832	8	DO			Bi	R7	458	12-L	
1833	10	EJ		AAE	Bi	R7		19-S	
		EI	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		19-BB	
1832	7	DN	102	AAC	Bi	R7		7-G	
1832	9	DP	102(?)	AAC(?)	Bi	R7		22-W	
1833	11	EK	102	AAC	Bi	R7		29-DD	
1833	12	EL	102(?)	AAC(?)	Bi	R8		36-JJ	
1833	13	EM	102	AAC	Bi	R8		42-OO	
1832	6	DM			Bi	R7		6-F	
1833	9				Bi	R6	463	11-K	
1833	8	CP			Bi	R6		20-T	
1830	12		PE		Bi	R7		14-P	
			111	AAM					
1840	1				Bi	R8		3-D	
1838	18				GS	R8		Unl.	

Pointed Wing

The *Pointed Wing* (*PW*) family was named for the right-facing eagle wing coming to a narrow point at the bottom. There are 17 documented varieties using 14 obverse dies with seven different dates, along with 16 reverse dies. The focus on 1820s dated dies could suggest that the detail of the dies was low, or these were intentionally weakly struck to simulate wear. The '6' in 1826 Z3-BG appears to be turned upside-down on the 1829-dated dies. The obverse of 1836 Z5-GG may have been produced through the transfer die process. One variety was plated by Riddell (1845), 1829 Z3-BZ. All varieties are rare or very scarce.

From 20 examples studied, most were struck on billon planchets with others using German silver and copper planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions seem inconsistent. Extant examples weigh on average 11.8 grams (+/- 2.5 grams). The average planchet diameter is 32.4 mm (+/- 1 mm), and thickness is 1.84 mm (+/- 0.3 mm).

Edge lettering on most examples studied is poor making it difficult to read and attribute. Four lettered edge die marriages have been positively identified. And edge 103-AAD has been matched on German silver and copper planchets on 1834 Z11-FR from the *Puckered Lips* family.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for no more than a couple years around 1840. This time period is estimated based on the shared edge device with the *Puckered Lips* family, one variety being reported by Riddell, and the overall quantity of dies produced.

This operation was probably located in the northeastern U.S. where so many other operations were located at that time. Furthermore, the low proportion of reported examples by Riddell likely suggests a point of origin far from him.

Table 1.12. ***Pointed Wing***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.	Notes
1829	4	CA	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		8-O	
1829		CB	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R7		8-I	
1829		CC	(LE)	AAD	GS	R7		8-H/P	A test strike of this variety was listed by Davignon as 15-P.
					Cu				
1833	29	FB	103	AAD	Bi	R8		38-LL	
		FC			Bi	R8		38-RR	
1826	3	BG		AAC	GS	R7		1-A	
					Cu				
1829	2	BZ	(LE)		Bi	R7		2-B	
1829	3		(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R7	454	11-B	
1829	5	CD	104	(?)	GS	R8		13-N	
1811	1	A		AAC	Bi	R8		2-B	
1828	12	BU	113	AAO	Bi	R8		14-N	
1815	5	N	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R7		5-F	
1828	13	BV	PE		(GS?)	R8		17-R	
1828	14	BW	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R8		18-S	
1828	15	BX	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		Unl.	
1829	6	CE	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R8		20-U	
1836	TD.O-116	GG	100	AAA	Bi	R8		20-T	

BBB

The *BBB* family was named for the three reverse die design groups whose nicknames all begin with B, as identified in the table below; two other varieties have not been placed in any design group. There are 15 documented varieties using 14 obverse dies dated 1811, 1815, 1818, 1820, 1822, 1825, 1828, and an as yet undetermined 'NDR', along with 11 reverse dies. One variety was plated in Riddell (1845), 1828 Z2-BM. Most varieties are rare, while 1825 Z1-AK is very scarce, and 1822 Z2-AK is scarce.

From 14 examples studied, all varieties were struck on billon planchets; none are known in German silver, copper, or brass as reported in Davignon (2010). Overall, planchet dimensions seem moderately consistent. The planchets weigh an average of 12.3 grams (+/- 1.8 grams). The average diameter is 32.5 mm (+/- 0.5 mm), and thickness is 1.85 mm (+/- 0.25 mm).

The planchets are known with three different lettered edge die marriages. However, several examples studied were so worn that that their lettered edge is no longer visible and could not attributed. More examples need to be studied to fill in the missing information.

This operation may have produced counterfeits for a year or maybe two sometime between 1828 and the early 1830s. This is based on the unusual quantity of early-dated dies used, the exclusive use of billon planchets, likely pre-dating when German silver was known and available around 1837, and the overall quantity of dies produced. However, the documentation by Riddell of one of these varieties may place the actual time of production later, potentially into the early 1840s.

It is uncertain where this operation was located based on current information. A reasonable hypothesis places this operation in the northeastern U.S. were so many other die struck counterfeiting operations were located at this time.

Table 1.13. *BBB*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.	Notes
1820	3	AA	PE		Bi	R8		4-D	**Group 1.** 'Broken lower arrow in claws'
1828	1		(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R8		13-M	
1825	2	AY	118	AAS	Bi	R8		3-C	
1815	1	I			Bi	R8		1-A	**Group 2.** 'Backward Ns in UNITED'
1815	2	J	117	AAR	Bi	R8		3-C	
1818	3	T			Bi	R8		8-H	
1822	1	AC	118	AAT	Bi	R8		12-L	**Group 3.** 'Bent lower-right pair of leaves'
1820	5			AAS	Bi	R8		7-G	
1811	2	B	117	AAR	Bi	R8		3-C	
1820	4	AB			Bi	R8		6-F	
NDR	3		(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R8		Unl.	
1825	1	AK	118	AAS	Bi	R7		2-B	
1822	2				Bi	R7		2-B	
		AJ			Bi	R7		8-H	
1828	2	BM	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8	451	2-B	

Close-up photos illustrate the different reverse design Groups, respectively.

Smushed 8s

The *Smushed 8s* family was named for the diagnostic flattened loop of the 8 in the date seen on several varieties. Included in this family is the Backward S in PLURIBUS on reverse AU (previously its own separate family).

Backward S in PLURIBUS

There are 15 documented varieties using 13 obverse dies dated 1823, 1824, 1831, 1833, 1834, 1835, 1836, and an as yet undetermined 'NDR', along with 11 reverse dies. Reverse die HW resembles the reverse of *Mexican Head* family Class 1 variety 1833 Z12-FZ, but no connection between the two has yet been found. One variety was plated in Riddell (1845), 1836 Z2-EN. Most varieties are currently rare, while just a couple are very scarce or scarce and 1824 Z1-AU is relatively common.

At least two counterfeit Cap and Rays 8 reales (8R) varieties, shown on the following page, used the same type of 8-punch from this family and was probably made by this same counterfeiting organization as this style of 8-punch has not been documented on any other counterfeit CBH or 8R.

Smushed part of the 8. The flattened side of the 8 may be oriented at the top or bottom within the date area of the coin.

Table 1.14. ***Smushed 8s***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1831	12	DC	PE		GS	R8		5-E
1835	13	HW	RE; PE		Br	R6		1-A
1836	2	EN	LRE	LRE	(?)	R8	468	2-B
1833	15		(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		21-U
1834	8		123	AAX	GS	R8		6-F
		FQ	(?)	(?)	(GS?)	R8		Unl.
		HY	PE		Bi	R8		Unl.
NDR	2	HV	123	AAX	Cu	R8		Unl.
1835	16	GD	127	ABB	GS	R8		19-S
1831	11	DB			GS	R6		3-C
			124	AAY				
1833	14		126	ABA	GS	R7		16-P
1833	39	HX	PE		(GS?)	R8		Unl.
1831	13	DD	125	AAZ	GS	R8		17-Q
1824	1	AU			GS	R5		1-A
			144	ABS	GS			
			(LE)	(LE)	Bi			
			142	ABQ	GS			
					Cu			
1823	2				Bi			4-D

The die sinker made their dies in the shape of a squircle, which is a square with rounded corners. We know this because at least one of the dies, an obverse of 1831 Z11 still survives, as shown below. That die measures 1-13/16-inch square and is 1 inch thick.

Twenty examples from this family were studied. Most varieties were struck on German silver planchets but copper, brass and billon planchets were also used. Planchet dimensions appear inconsistent. They weigh an average of 12.5 grams (+/- 1.2 grams), have a diameter of 33.2 mm (+/- 1.5 mm), and 1.8 to 2.05 mm thick.

This is the only known example of an original die from this family, 1831 Z11.

The planchets are known with seven different lettered edge die marriages, while 1835 Z13-HW is known with a reeded edge, and plain edge planchets are also documented. No single lettered edge die marriage appears dominant, although a handful of varieties have yet to be studied or documented. The use of multiple lettered edge dies and diversity of planchet alloys is unusual and intriguing, and more examples and varieties need to be studied to more completely understand this operation.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a year or so as a result of the quantity of dies made and varieties created. The time period of production was probably between 1840 and 1845 given the principal use of German silver and one example documented by Riddell.

This operation was probably based in the northeastern U.S. due to the general absence of examples reported by Riddell likely suggesting a point of origin away from the Mississippi River region and/or later in time.

1833 and 1835 Cap and Rays 8 reales with similar or the same smushed 8s in the date.

Ski Nose

The *Ski Nose* family was named by Davignon (1996) for the small, delicate nose which curves slightly outward like a ski jump on most examples. There are 13 documented varieties using 13 obverse dies dated 1817, 1821, 1829, 1830, and 1831. Up to six reverse dies were also used, although the reverse dies on 1830 Z3-CI and 1830 Z4-CJ are not clear, and one or both may actually be reverse P. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845).

From 16 examples studied, varieties were struck on several planchet alloys including German silver, copper, brass, and, pewter for 1831 Z4-P and 1831 Z21-P. 1831 Z4-P is also reported to have been struck on a billon planchet but this has not been verified. Overall, planchet dimensions appear inconsistent. Extant examples weigh on average 12.9 grams (+/- 2 grams). The average planchet diameter is 32.9 mm (+/- 1 mm) and thickness ranges from 1.75 to 2.37 mm.

The planchets are known with at least three different lettered edge die marriages. Several examples are known with plain edges. Other varieties and examples studied have indistinct and difficult to read edge lettering, making attributing edge die marriages particularly challenging. More examples from rarer varieties need to be studied to better understand production sequences.

Varieties range from rare to common. 1831 Z4-P may be particularly common because of a rumor of a hoard of 15 to 20 high grade pieces discovered in Boston (Davignon 2010); the year of discovery is not documented.

This operation was likely producing counterfeits for a year, maybe two, as early as the late 1830s. However, these may have been made as late as the mid-1840s since Riddell did not document any in his *Monograph*. The location of this operation may have been in or near Boston based on the discovery of the hoard.

A final note. This counterfeit family is a challenge to understand especially with regard to attributing obverse and reverse dies, and attempting to figure-out a logical emission order. Many reverse dies are extremely similar with only subtle differences. Examples become particularly difficult to attribute from low-grade and/or problem examples and from poor photos. Studying additional pieces may resolve many of the outstanding research questions about this family.

Table 1.15. *Ski Nose*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1830	5	CK	PE		Cu	R8		Unl.
1831	6		119	AAU	Br	R8		20-T
1831	7				Br	R8		Unl.
1830	3	CI	PE		Cu	R8		19-U
1830	4	CJ	(?)	(?)	(?)	R8		21-W
1829	1	BY	119	AAU	GS	R7		1-A
1830	1	P			GS	R7		1-A
1830	2		PE		Cu	R6		17-S
			120	AAV	GS			
1831	4		119	AAU	Pw	R5		1-A
					GS; Cu			
1831	21		122	AAW	Pw	R8		Unl.
1817	1		PE		GS	R8		2-B
1831	5	AI	(LE)	(LE)	(GS?)	R8		18-R
1821	4		121	AAW	Br	R6		3-D

Square Tip

The *Square Tip* family was named for the squared-off shape of the lower-left wing. There are 12 documented varieties using nine obverse dies dated 1821, 1822, 1825, 1826, 1830, and an as yet undetermined 'NDR', along with eight reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Most varieties are rare or very scarce, while 1821 Z1-AD is scarce.

From 17 examples studied, all varieties were struck on billon planchets, while two of those varieties were also struck on German silver planchets. Overall, many planchets appear to be generally consistent in size, but there is some variation as well. Most planchets weigh between 12.3 and 13.9 grams, but some examples are as light as 10.2 grams. Planchet diameters average around 32.8 mm (+/- 0.8 mm), and have an average thickness of 1.87 mm (+/- 0.2 mm).

The planchets are known with five different lettered edge die marriages. Three edge die marriages are currently unique to this family, while two others are also associated with two other families. Edge 101-AAB, associated with 1825 Z7-BC on a billon planchet, is also known on at least one *Buck-Toothed Eagle* variety. Edge 105-AAF, associated with 1821 Z1-AD on a German silver planchet, is also known on at least five *Mexican Head* varieties.

This operation was likely producing counterfeits for just one or two years during the late 1830s or early 1840s. The use of both billon and German silver may signal a transition to the less expensive alloy during this time.

The location of this counterfeiting operation is so far unknown. The northeastern U.S. is the strongest guess, whereas the Mississippi River valley area is unlikely otherwise Riddell would have likely recorded at least one variety.

Table 1.16. ***Square Tip***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1825	7	BC	101	AAB	Bi	R7		7-G
1821	1	AD	105	AAF	GS	R6		2-B
			106	AAI	Bi			
		AE	116	AAQ	Bi	R7		2-C
		AF	115	AAP	Bi	R7		2-E
1822	3		106	AAI	Bi	R7		4-D
1822	4	AL			Bi	R8		5-E
1830	6				Bi	R8		16-R
1830	7				Bi	R8		24-R
1821	2	AG			Bi	R8		6-H
1826	4				Bi	R8		Unl.
		BH			Bi	R7		14-N
NDR	1	HU			Bi	R8		Unl.

French Connection

The *French Connection* family was named for its obverse New Orleans 'O' mintmark. There are eight documented varieties using eight obverse dies dated 1836, 1838 and 1839, and eight reverse dies, all made from die sets. The '6' and '9' are the same punch just flipped. Three varieties were plated in Riddell (1845), 1836-O Z1-GL, 1839-O Z1-HL, and 1839-O Z2-HM.

From seven varieties studied, all varieties were struck on silver-plated billon planchets, although some might have been struck on bronze planchets too. Overall, there appear to be two different planchet thicknesses but the diameters were fairly consistent. Examples range in weight from 10.5 to 13.2 grams depending on planchet thickness. Diameters were fairly consistent averaging 30.2 mm (+/- 0.3 mm). However, planchet thicknesses cluster between those being 1.9 to 2.0 mm, and thicker planchets being 2.22 to 2.34 mm. The planchets are only known with reeded edges, and this is the largest family of reeded edge counterfeit CBHs.

Nearly all varieties are rare, while 1836-O Z1-GL is considered scarce. In addition, 1839-O Z2-HM has not been documented since Riddell.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for about a year or two based on the quantity of die pairs created and varieties produced. These counterfeits were probably made between 1839 and 1844 since a high proportion were recorded by Riddell. It is possible that Riddell encountered other varieties not listed in his *Monograph*, but subsequently overlooked their subtle die differences.

This operation was probably located in New Orleans or the immediate vicinity. This is principally supported by the exclusive creation of New Orleans mint-marked counterfeit dies and the high proportion of examples documented by Riddell; there are only a couple other documented New Orleans mint-marked counterfeit CBHs not associated with this family. This counterfeit organization may have also had a close familiarity with Mint operations. Their creation of an 1838-O counterfeit die is particularly intriguing since only a limited number of genuine 1838-O CBHs were minted and those were for presentation purposes commemorating one of the first branch mint coins struck.

Example mintmark positions between 1836-O Z1-GL, 1838-O Z2-HK and 1839-O Z1-HL.

Table 1.17. ***French Connection***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1836-O	1	GL	RE		Bi	R6	471	4-D
1836-O	2	GM			Bi	R8		16-P
1836-O	3	GN			Bi	R8		17-Q
1838-O	2	HK			Bi	R8		25-Z
1839-O	1	HL			Bi	R8	475	1-A
1839-O	2	HM			Bz	***R9***	476	2-B
1839-O	3	HN			Bi	R8		4-D
1839-O	4	HO			Bi	R8		6-F

Lumpy

The *Lumpy* family was named for the several raised lumps found on the EZ and FA reverse dies. There are eight documented varieties using seven obverse dies and five reverse dies. Seven varieties are hand-made die varieties while one variety, 1834 TD.1834 O-111, is a transfer die variety. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). All varieties are rare or scarce.

Thirteen examples have been studied from this family. Half of the varieties were struck on billon planchets while the other half on German silver planchets. The billon planchet varieties weigh on average 12.5 grams from nine examples studied. Whereas the German silver planchet varieties weigh about 10 grams on average from four examples studied. Planchet size likely influences this difference as the billon planchet varieties were struck on wider and thicker planchets than their German silver counterparts.

It has been observed that edge LRE.135-ABJ from the *Lumpy* family is similar to LE.10-AAL from the *Clinton Head* family. Future research is needed to see if there is any connection or if this is just a coincidental observation.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short period between the late 1830s and the first-half of the 1840s.

Just prior to this publication, these varieties were part of two separate families. However, both were found to be related based on a common edge die match, 139-ABN. This illustrates the point that some existing families may eventually be combined based on incomplete and future research.

Reverse EZ with raised lumps, as circled.

Reverse FA with raised lump, as circled.

1835 obverse Z.14 with unusual 8 and 3 die punches.

Table 1.18. *Lumpy*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1834	TD.1834 O-111	TD.1834 O-111	138	ABM	Bi	R8		9-I
1835	14		140	ABO	(Bi?)	R7		Unl.
		GB	139	ABN	Bi	R7		13-M
1830	15	CS			Bi	R8		4-D
1833	28	FA			GS	R7		35-II
1833	27	EZ	135	ABJ	GS	R7		33-X
1833	26				GS	R8		24-X
1834	9				GS	R7		7-G

Stone

The *Stone* family was not named for any stylistic commonality. This family can generally be attributed for its distinctive 2 in the date (where applicable) along with the unique artistic design of Liberty's face, specifically from the nose to the cap, for the hair and cap extend relatively far forward and together form a broad, rounded appearance. There are seven documented varieties using seven obverse dies dated 1816, 1818, 1821, 1826 and 1829, along with five reverse dies. Two varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Most varieties are considered rare while 1826 Z1-AH and Z2-BF is very scarce.

From eight examples studied, all varieties were struck or are estimated to have been struck on billon planchets. Overall, planchet dimensions appear inconsistent. Examples weigh between 11.0 and 14.7 grams. Their average diameter is 32.5 mm but this varies by up to 1 mm. Finally, planchet thickness averages 1.86 mm (+/- 0.3 mm). All examples which have clear edge lettering have the same lettered edge die marriage. However, an example of 1826 Z7-V appears to have wider lettering in HALF which would indicate a different lettered edge die marriage.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits sometime between 1829 and 1845. The high proportion of varieties documented by Riddell may suggest a more refined period between the late 1830s and early 1840s.

The origin of this counterfeiting group is currently unknown. The proportion of varieties documented by Riddell could suggest a location closer to the Mississippi River valley and potentially not in the northeastern U.S.

Close-up of the 1816 date showing the high-quality die punches.

Table 1.19. ***Stone***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1816	1	O	129	ABD	Bi	R8		1-A
1818	6	V	(?)	(?)	Bi(?)	R8		3-C
1826	7		(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		Unl.
1821	3	AH	(?)	(?)	Bi	R8		4-F
1826	1		129	ABD	Bi	R7	448	2-B, 4-D
1826	2	BF			Bi	R7	449	3-C, 8-H
1829	7	CF			Bi	R8		18-S

Mint Mimicked

The *Mint Mimicked* family was named after the near perfect die work in comparison to genuine CBHs. There are six documented varieties using six obverse dies dated 1830, 1832 and 1833, and five reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Based on the quality of die workmanship amongst varieties within this family and additional singleton varieties of similar quality, this family has the potential to add additional varieties as a result of further research. For example, 1832 Z13-DT is hypothesized to belong to this family. Almost all varieties are rare, but 1832 Z4-DK is scarce.

From 12 examples studied, five varieties were struck on German silver planchets and 1832 Z4-DK was struck on a billon planchet. Overall, the planchet dimensions appear to be inconsistent, but are tentatively consistent per variety or group of varieties. Weights range from 9.8 to 13.3 grams, diameters range from 31.1 to 32.7 mm, and thicknesses range from 1.5 to 2.1 mm. Finally, the planchets are known with one common lettered edge die marriage.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for up to a year around 1840 but possibly as late as 1845 or thereabouts.

Overall, the die quality of these counterfeits is exceptional and comparable to other families such as *Top Gun*, *Pretty Perfect*, and *Bumpy Nose*. Some have hypothesized that mint dies or hubs were used (or stolen) to create these counterfeits. However, no evidence has been found to substantiated this hypothesis, and the obverse and reverse dies do not match an Overton variety.

A comparison of the three 1830-dated obverse dies, Z18 (left), Z22 (middle), Z13 (right).

Table 1.20. ***Mint Mimicked***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1830	18	CV	130	ABE	GS	R8		13-M
1830	22	IB			GS	R8		Unl.
1830	13	CQ			GS	R8		20-V
1832	3				GS	R8		25-Z
1832	4	DK			Bi	R6		3-B
1833	30	FD			GS	R8		44-QQ

Y 1s

The *Y 1s* family was named for the general shape of the 1s in the date. There are five documented varieties using five obverse dies dated 1813, 1815, 1817, 1818 and 1819, along with five reverse dies, all made from die sets. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Currently, four varieties are rare, while 1815 Z4-M is very scarce.

From five examples studied, all varieties were struck on German silver planchets while one example of 1817 Z2-Q was also struck on a copper planchet. Overall, most examples have fairly consistent planchet dimensions, although an example of 1818 Z2-S is an oversized outlier. Most planchets weigh between 11.0 and 12.0 grams, with 33.1 mm wide planchets (+/- 0.1 mm), and an average thickness of 1.75 mm (+/- 0.2 mm). Three varieties have a common lettered edge, and 1819 Z1-Y has a second lettered edge die, while 1818 Z2-S appears to have a plain edge.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits around 1840, if not later since German silver was primarily used for the planchets and none were recorded by Riddell. This counterfeiters' choice to create CBH dies dated in the teens, and thus back-dated 20 or more years before they were produced, is particularly unusual amongst most counterfeiters at this time since most did not back-date their dies to this extreme extent. However, the limited amount of detail on the dies may help explain the counterfeiters' thinking. The limited die details may have made the counterfeit CBHs seem like they had been in circulation for a while and thus easier to pass.

The 'Y'-shaped 1, as found on some of the varieties from this family.

A comparison of the five dates, including the shape of the 1s, not all of which have that 'Y' shape. Most of the 8s are also thin except for 1817 Z2-Q.

Table 1.21. ***Y 1s***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1813	2	H	128	ABC	GS	R8		2-B
1815	4	M			GS	R7		2-B
1817	2	Q			GS, Cu	R8		3-C
1818	2	S	(?)	(?)	GS	R8		6-F
1819	1	Y	143	ABR	GS	R8		4-D

Sans Serif S

The *Sans Serif S* family was named for the lack of serifs on the ends of the Ss in STATES. This family has five documented varieties using five obverse dies dated 1820, 1822, 1831 and 1833, and three reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Two varieties are currently scarce, one is very scarce, and two are rare.

From 12 examples studied, four varieties were struck on German silver planchets while 1822 Z6-AN was struck on a billon planchet. Overall, the planchet dimensions were inconsistent. The planchets weigh between 11.5 and 16.0 grams with half of those studied weighing above 13.5 grams. Diameters range from 31.8 to 33.6 mm, and thicknesses range from 1.8 to 2.46 mm.

The planchets are known with two different lettered edge die marriages.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits during the late 1830s or early 1840s given the use of both German silver and billon planchets.

Reverse DG showing an absence of serifs on the S's in STATES. This feature is similar to reverses Z and AN.

Table 1.22. ***Sans Serif S***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1831	16	DG	134	ABI	GS	R7		6-F
1833	7	Z			GS	R6		8-H
1831	8		133	ABH	GS	R8		10-J
1820	2				GS	R6		1-A
1822	6	AN			Bi	R8		9-I

Top Gun

The *Top Gun* family was named by Davignon (1996) for the high-quality workmanship of the dies. There are five documented varieties using five obverse dies dated consecutively from 1822 and 1825 and two reverse dies. Four varieties were plated in Riddell (1845).

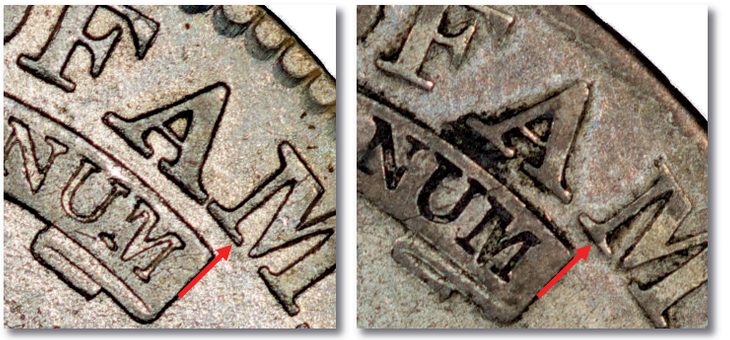
From 27 examples studied, all or almost all varieties were struck on billon or silver-plated copper planchets; 1824 Z2-AX has not yet been documented from a copper planchet. No examples are known on German silver planchets as reported in Davignon (2010). The planchets weigh an average of 12.3 grams (+/- 1.3 grams), have average diameters of 32.5 mm (+/- 0.5 mm), and an average thickness of 1.8 mm (+/- 0.2 mm). The planchets are known with one common lettered edge.

Varieties range from common to scarce. 1823 Z1-AM and 1825 Z3-AM are two of the most common counterfeit CBH varieties to still exist with hundreds of examples extant for each. The top-level TPGs have graded as genuine more examples from this family than any other counterfeit CBH family or singleton. At least five examples have been documented as currently or previously being in such holders. Similarly, examples of these varieties are regularly advertised as genuine by unsuspecting sellers.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a year or two in the 1820s or 1830s. The high-quality die workmanship probably made examples difficult to initially detect, contributing to their overall success, and ultimately producing some of the most common counterfeit CBHs in existence today. Despite this, the quality was not good enough to prevent them from being documented by Riddell.

This operation was probably located in the industrial northeastern states given the high-quality die workmanship which would have required a highly skilled die sinker. It has also been hypothesized that the die sinker used Mint made dies or hubs given the extremely high-quality workmanship. This is purely speculation at this time without any evidence to support this.

1825 Z3-AM (left) has star 7 high on headband while 1825 Z4-AX (right) points towards front hair curl.



Reverse AM (left) with the scroll ending under the right foot of the left upright of the M while reverse AX (right) ends under the upright of M.

Table 1.23. ***Top Gun***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1822	5	AM	131	ABF	Bi, Cu	R4	444	1-A
1823	1				Bi, Cu	R3	445	1-A
1825	3				Bi, Cu	R3	447	1-A
1824	2	AX			Bi	R5	446	2-B
1825	4				Bi, Cu	R6		6-F

Never Too Late

The *Never Too Late* family was named after the two 1842 dated imitation varieties post-dating when CBHs were minted by three years. There are five documented varieties using five obverse dies dated between 1836 and 1842 and one common reverse die. The obverse dies were made from a master hub with only the date digits sunk separately. The reverse die is the earlier, '50 C.' type, and not the later 50 CENTS or HALF DOL which would correspond with most obverse dates. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). All varieties are rare or very scarce.

The creation of two 1842-dated dies is a bit perplexing given that this was three years after this design was minted. Some have suggested that this operation could have been located in a foreign country, possibly Canada, where U.S. coinage history was less familiar. Alternatively, they could have been made to side-step counterfeiting laws.

From five examples studied, varieties were struck on billon or German silver planchets, and some were struck on both. Overall, planchet dimensions are not uniform. They range in weight from 11.3 to 16.5 grams. Planchet diameters vary from 31.6 to 33.2 mm and range from 1.8 to 2.5 mm thick. An example of 1842 Z2-GF is the largest and heaviest counterfeit CBH planchet ever recorded weighing 16.5 grams (0.5 grams heavier than the next closest example), and 2.47 mm thick. The planchets have a common lettered-reeded edge die and only the 1842 varieties have a documented reeded edge.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a year around 1842 given the 1842-dated varieties and the use of German silver planchets.

Dates and date punches. The 8 punch from 1836 Z4-GF is clearly different from all other varieties.

The two 1842 date positions. The 1842 Z1-GF (top) has an uneven date while 1842 Z2-GF (bottom) has a fairly evenly set date.

Table 1.24. ***Never Too Late***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1836	4	GF	178	ADA	Bi, GS	R8		18-R
1837	2				Bi	R8		1-A
1838	4				Bi, GS	R7		7-H
1842	1		RE		Bi, GS	R7		1-A
1842	2		178	ADA	GS	R8		2-A

Fancy 5s

The *Fancy 5s* family was named after the early style of right-leaning 5s in the denomination (1807-1819); other counterfeit CBH varieties do exhibit this feature but which are currently not known to be associated with this family. There are five documented varieties using four obverse dies dated 1812, 1815, and 1818, and three reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Most varieties are currently rare while 1812 Z1-D is scarce.

From four examples studied, examples were struck on billon and copper planchets. The planchets weigh an average of 12 grams (+/- 1.3 grams), have diameters between 32.7 and 34.3 mm, and 1.6 to 1.95 mm thick. The planchets are known with one common lettered edge die marriage.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for about a year in the late teens or early 20s given how few varieties are known, the use of the fancy 5 indicating a familiarity with this design style and replicating it, but not the later, upright style of 5, and the use of billon planchets.

Reverse K normal die state (left) and terminal die state with bisecting die crack (right).

Fancy, italicized numerals in the denomination.

Table 1.25. ***Fancy 5s***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1812	1	D	136	ABK	Bi, Cu	R6		1-A
1818	5				Bi	R8		11-K
1815	3	K			Bi	R8		4-D
		L	175	ACX	Cu	R8		4-E
1818	9		(?)	(?)	(?)	R8		Unl.

Too Legit to Quit

The *Too legit to Quit* family was named by Davignon (1996) for the high-quality workmanship of the dies. There are five documented varieties using four obverse dies dated between 1833 and 1838 and two reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). All varieties are common, although 1836 Z3-EO is the scarcest.

From 22 examples studied, all varieties were struck on German silver planchets and probably silver plated. Overall, the planchet dimensions were fairly consistent. The planchets weigh an average of 12.7 grams (+/- 0.8 grams); one example of 1833 Z16-EO was excluded from the above because it is documented as weighing an unusually heavy 14.5 grams corresponding with a 33.6 mm wide planchet. The planchets have average diameters of 32.45 mm (+/- 0.6 mm), and an average thickness of 2.06 mm (+/- 0.15 mm). Some examples are known with large planchet cracks. All planchets are known with one common lettered edge.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a year or two around 1845 or shortly thereafter. The high-quality die workmanship probably made examples difficult to initially detect, contributing to their overall success, and ultimately producing some of the most common counterfeit CBHs to survive today. It is possible that the die quality was so good that they were never detected by Riddell, especially if they were made before the publication of his *Monograph*.

The location of this operation was probably in the northeastern U.S. All examples seen were uniformly struck suggestive of a high-quality operation. There is another hypothesis that these characteristics may indicate an operation which originated overseas, such as Birmingham, England.

Reverse EO (left) scroll ends under the right edge of A2.

Reverse EP (right) scroll ends under the middle of A2.

Table 1.26. ***Too Legit to Quit***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1833	16	EO	132	ABG	GS	R3		1-A
1836	3				GS	R4		5-E
1837	1				GS	R3		2-B
1838	3				GS	R3		3-C
1838		EP			GS	R3		3-E

Puckered Lips

The *Puckered Lips* family was named after the way Liberty's lips appear in a puckered or pouty manner. There are five documented varieties using five obverse dies dated 1833, 1834, 1838, and a NDR, and four reverse dies all. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Four varieties are rare while 1834 Z10-FR is considered common. Copper planchet examples of 1834 Z10-FR are more common than those struck on German silver.

From 10 examples studied, all varieties were struck primarily on German silver planchets, and 1834 Z10-FR was also struck on silver-plated copper and apparently billon planchets. Generally and tentatively, there appears to be two different planchet sizes for this family, small and large, with the large planchets corresponding only to some examples of 1834 Z10-FR struck on copper planchets. Many examples of the copper planchet 1834 Z10-FR show signs of environmental damage from corrosion and this can affect the following planchet size information.

Small planchets weigh between 11.1 and 12.2 grams, have diameters from 31.4 to 33.0 mm wide, and are generally 1.8 to 2.0 mm thick.

Large planchets weigh between 13.9 and 14.4 grams, have diameters from 32.6 to 33.6 mm wide, and have thicknesses from 2.05 to 2.25 mm.

Nearly all planchets studied have lettered edges, but their quality of application and/or preservation is inconsistent. 1834 Z10-FR is known with the clearest and boldest edge lettering, 103-AAD. Edge 103-AAD was used on planchets from the *PW* family. One example studied of 1834 Z10-FR appears to show E.2 as being different from AAD but this was not entirely clear. Apparently, the edge on 1833 Z24-EX is different from 103-AAD, but this was not studied or confirmed by this author. Examples studied of 1833 Z25-EY and 1838 Z10-HB did not show any or enough edge lettering for comparison purposes. Additional edge die research is needed and encouraged for this family.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for up to a year sometime between 1838 and 1845, but probably closer to the early 1840s given the shared edge device with the *PW* family which has a variety recorded by Riddell.

This operation was probably located in the northeastern U.S. as Riddell did not document any varieties except for the planchet connection with the *PW* family.

Table 1.27. ***Puckered Lips***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1833	24	EX	176	ACY	GS	R8		14-N
NDR	4	EY	PE		GS	R8		Unl.
1833	25		(?)	(?)	GS	R8		22-V
1834	10	FR	103	AAD	GS	R5		1-A
			(LE)	(LE)	Bi			
			103	AAD	Cu			
			PE					
1838	10	HB	(LE)	(LE)	GS	R8		24-Y

Stumpy Lower Arrow

The *Stumpy Lower Arrow* family was named after the lower arrow on reverse R being quite short compared to the two arrows above it. There are four documented varieties using three obverse dies dated 1818, 1820, and 1832, and two reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Varieties range from rare to very scarce.

All varieties were struck on German silver planchets while 1818 Z1-R was also known struck on a copper planchet. Planchet dimension information was only available for study from four examples. Overall, planchet dimensions were inconsistent. Weights ranged from 11.2 to 14.3 grams and this was largely dependent on planchet thickness. The diameters were somewhat consistent at 33.0 mm. However, planchet thickness was about 1.8 mm for the two German silver planchets studied, while the copper planchet had a thickness of 2.2 mm. All examples studied have the same lettered edge die.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short period during the late 1830s or early 1840s given the use of German silver planchets.

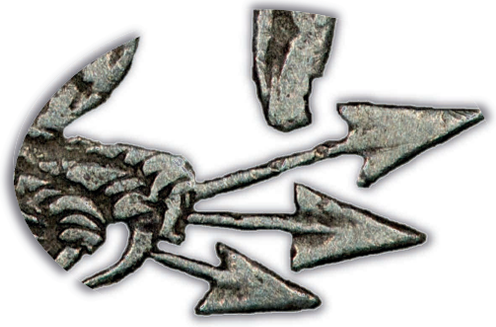


Table 1.28. ***Stumpy Lower Arrow***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1818	1	R	137	ABL	GS	R7		2-B
					Cu			
1820	1				GS	R8		2-B
1832	1				GS	R8		23-X
		DW			GS	R8		Unl.

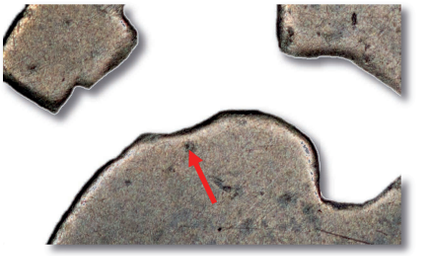
Indented Left Wing

The *Indented Left Wing* family was named for the top of the left-facing wing curving inward. There are three documented varieties using three obverse dies dated 1812, 1818, and 1825, and three reverse dies, each struck as die pairs. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). All varieties are rare.

An example from all three varieties was studied and all were struck on billon planchets. Planchet dimensions closely mimic well-worn genuine CBHs. Edge lettering is unclear on all examples studied, but 1825 Z6-BB apparently has a plain edge.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for less than a year some time before 1830 given the billon planchets and that Riddell did not record any examples in his *Monograph*.

Finally, this author hypothesizes that this family could be related to the *BBB* family. However, more examples need to be studied to support or refute this hypothesis.



Indented left wing, as shown.

Table 1.29. ***Indented Left Wing***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1812	2	E	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R8		2-B
1818	4	U	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R8		9-I
1825	6	BB	PE		Bi	R8		5-E

Bug-Eyed

The *Bug-Eyed* family was named for the pronounced eye on Liberty. There are three documented varieties using three obverse dies all dated 1828, and three reverse dies, each struck as die pairs. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Varieties are rare or very scarce.

From five examples studied, all varieties were struck on billon planchets while 1828 Z9-BR was also struck on German silver planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions appear inconsistent. The planchets weigh an average of 11.7 grams (+/- 1.7 grams). The planchets have average diameters of 32.6 mm (+/- 0.4 mm), and an average thickness of 1.8 mm (+/- 0.2 mm).

There appear to be at least three different lettered edge die marriages. However, edge lettering on most examples studied were incomplete, weak or difficult to decipher.

In addition, the one example studied of 1828 Z10-BS had an edge so worn that nearly all the edge lettering was indecipherable.

Additional examples need to be studied to better understand the edge lettering on these planchets.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short time in the late 1830s or early 1840s given the presence of both billon and German silver planchets.

Prominent 'bug' eye.

Table 1.30. ***Bug-Eyed***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1828	9	BR	145	ABT	Bi	R7		6-F
			146	ABU	GS			
1828	10	BS	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	R8		19-T
1828	11	BT	147	ABV	Bi	R8		Unl.

Long Neck

The *Long Neck* family was named after the long turkey neck on the eagle. There are three documented varieties using three obverse dies date 1838, 1838-O, and 1840, and two reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Varieties are rare or very scarce.

From two examples studied, varieties were struck on German silver and billon planchets. Planchet dimensions are approximately the same as genuine reeded edge CBHs, but planchet weight is low, even for a well-worn genuine example, ranging from about 10 to 11 grams. The planchets all have reeded edges.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short period around 1840. The use of a reverse O-mintmark could be suggestive of the counterfeiter copying a Seated reverse. Reverse mintmarks were not used until 1838 on half-dimes and dimes, and 1840 on half dollars.

The location of this operation is unknown. The use of a New Orleans mintmark might suggest this operation was located around that area. Alternatively, the counterfeiting location could have been in a foreign country whereby the counterfeits may have been less familiar with U.S. coinage, especially since two of these three varieties, 1838-O and 1840, are fantasy imitations.

Table 1.31. ***Long Neck***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1838	9	HA	RE		(GS?)	R8		13-N
1840	2				Bi	R8		4-E
1838-O	1	HJ			GS	R7		12-M

Late Comer

The *Late Comer* family was named because two varieties are dated and designed like the final reeded edge CBH designs and 1837-O uses a transfer die from a Seated half dollar. There are three documented varieties using two obverse dies dated 1837 and 1838, and two reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845) and the use of a reverse from a Seated half dollar likely contributes to this result. Varieties range from rare to very scarce.

Two varieties were studied and both were struck on German silver planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions appear inconsistent. The planchets weigh between 11.7 and 12.0 grams, with diameters ranging from 30.6 to 31.4 mm, and being 1.9 to 2.0 mm thick. The planchets all have reeded edges.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a couple months during the 1840s given the use German silver planchets, the latest Capped Bust design, and a Seated reverse.

Table 1.32. ***Late Comer***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1837-O	3	TD.Seated	RE		GS (est.)	R8		Unl.
1837		GO			GS	R8		11-K
1838	5				GS	R7		10-K

Medalist

The *Medalist* family was named for its design features looking like they come from a medal. There are three documented varieties using three obverse dies dated 1823 and 1827 and one common reverse die. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Varieties are rare or very scarce.

From three examples studied of each variety, all were struck on German silver planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions appear somewhat inconsistent. The planchets weigh between 12.4 and 13.6 grams, have a diameter between 32.8 and 33.7 mm, and have thicknesses between 1.9 and 2.05 mm. All planchets are known with one common lettered edge.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short time during the late 1830s or early 1840s given the use of German silver planchets.

Table 1.33. ***Medalist***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1823	3	AV	141	ABP	GS	R8		10-J
1823	4				GS	R8		Unl.
1827	1				GS	R7		1-A

Dotted Feather

The *Dotted Feather* family was named for the dotted feathers located above the shield. There are three documented varieties using two obverse dies dated 1833, and two reverse dies, each. One variety, 1833 Z20-ET, was plated in Riddell (1845). Varieties are either rare or very scarce.

Three examples were studied between both varieties, and all were struck on German silver planchets. The planchets are light in weight ranging from 10.0 to 10.7 grams, and slightly elliptical but they have diameters averaging 32.5 mm. They range from 1.55 to 1.75 mm thick. Both varieties have a common lettered edge die marriage.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short period between 1840 and 1845 given the use of German silver planchets and one variety being recorded by Riddell.

Table 1.34. ***Dotted Feather***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1833	20	ET	149	ABX	GS	R7	464	4-D
1833	21				GS	R8		Unl.
1833		EU			GS	R8		39-MM

Fantasy

The *Fantasy* family was named for the use of all fantasy-dated CBHs dated 1840 and 1841. There are three documented varieties using two obverse dies dated 1840 and 1841, and two reverse dies. The reverse dies are stylized similar to Seated half dollars rather than any of the CBH types. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). All varieties are rare.

All varieties were struck on essentially copper planchets and XRF analysis detected about 8% of the alloy containing light metals. The planchet dimensions from two examples studied are slightly larger than genuine reeded edge CBHs. The weights are also comparatively low, weighing just 11.3 grams each. Finally, the planchets all have reeded edges.

This operation was likely producing counterfeits for a couple months in the early 1840s given the use of billon planchets, the use of dies dated 1840 and 1841, and reeded edge planchets. The use of these imitation dates may suggest that these counterfeiters were attempting to side-step counterfeiting laws.

The two fantasy-dated dates from this family, 1840 and 1841.

Table 1.35. ***Fantasy***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1840	3	HQ	RE		Bi	R8		1-A
		HR			Cu	R8		1-B
1841	1				Cu	R8		Unl.

1830 Counterfeiter

The *1830 Counterfeiter* family was named because all varieties are dated 1830. There are three documented varieties using one obverse die dated 1830, and three reverse dies. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Varieties are either scarce or common.

From 11 examples studied, these varieties were struck on billon, brass and German silver planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions were inconsistent. Examples weigh between 10.7 and 13.5 grams. Diameters range from 32.5 to 33.6 mm. Planchet thickness ranges from 1.6 to 2.0 mm. And the planchets are known with one common lettered edge die marriage.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits between 1837 and 1842 given the use of both billon and German silver planchets.

This family has the potential to be related to a larger family with more diverse dates but so far no definitive connection has been found. Interestingly, this family shares the same '5' punch with 1831 Z19-DJ, but no other device punch connection is known between this family and that singleton.

Table 1.36. ***1830 Counterfeiter***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1830	9	CL	148	ABW	Bi, GS	R5		2-B
		IG			Bi, Br	R5		2-Ba
		CM			Bi	R7		2-N

Long Talon

The *Long Talon* family was named for the long talons on the eagle. There are two documented varieties using two obverse dies dated 1833 and two reverse dies, each struck as die pairs. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Varieties are rare or very scarce.

Both varieties were struck on German silver planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions appear inconsistent between the two varieties studied. Weights range from 12 to 13 grams and vary based on planchet diameter rather than thickness. The heavier, 1833 Z22-EV has a diameter of 34.1 mm and a thickness of 1.8 mm. In contrast, 1833 Z23-EW has a diameter of 33.0 mm and a thickness of 1.89 mm. The varieties are known with one common lettered edge die marriage.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short time in the late 1830s or early 1840s given the use of German silver planchets.

Table 1.37. ***Long Talon***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1833	22	EV	(LE)	(LE)	GS	R7		7-G
1833	23	EW			GS	R7		15-O

Raised Liberty

The *Raised Liberty* family was named for the raised letters in Liberty's headband. There are two documented varieties using two obverse dies dated 1838 and two reverse dies, each struck as die pairs. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Both varieties are rare.

Both varieties were struck on German silver and brass planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions seem somewhat inconsistent. Weights range from 11 to 13 grams, the diameter ranges from 30.1 to 30.8 mm, and thicknesses vary from 1.9 to 2.3 mm. Both varieties have reeded edges.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short time in the early 1840s given the use of German silver planchets with reeded edges.

Table 1.38. ***Raised Liberty***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1838	7	GY	RE		GS, Br	R7		8-I
1838	8	GZ			GS, Br	R7		17-R; 22-W

Pretty Perfect

The *Pretty Perfect* family was named for the high-quality die workmanship of the two documented varieties who are associated by a shared lettered edge (LRE.162-ACK) planchet. Two obverse dies and two reverse dies were used to strike die pairs. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Currently, 1832 Z12-DS is scarce while 1833 Z40-IF is rare.

Both varieties were struck on unusual alloyed planchets of copper, zinc and silver of inconsistent ratios. Overall, the planchet dimensions are tentatively consistent. Weights are in the lower 11-gram range, the diameter is around 32 mm, and thickness is about 1.8 mm.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short time in the early 1840s given the use of German silver planchets and high-quality workmanship.

Table 1.39. ***Pretty Perfect***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1832	12	DS	162	ACK	CuZnAg	R6		2-B
1833	40	IF			AgCuZn	R8		Unl.

Bumpy Nose

The *Bumpy Nose* family was named for the slight ridge in the mid part of the nose on the two documented varieties who are connected by a shared half lettered edge, LRE.171, between 1832 Z14-DU and 1834 Z11-FS. Two obverse dies and two reverse dies were used to strike die pairs. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Both varieties are scarce.

Both varieties were struck on German silver planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions are tentatively consistent. Weights are in the lower 12.3 to 12.9-gram range, the diameter is around 32-32.8 mm, and thickness is about 1.8-2.1 mm.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short time in the early 1840s given the use of German silver planchets and high-quality workmanship.

The middle of Liberty's nose has a slightly raised bump.

Table 1.40. *Bumpy Nose*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1832	14	DU	171	ADB	GS	R7		17-R
1834	11	FS		ACT	GS	R7		5-E
			170	ACS				

Provisional

The *Provisional* family was named for their similar die characteristics to other varieties which may one day result in these two varieties joining other existing families. This author hypothesizes that these two varieties may be related to the *Bumpy Nose* family due to similar portrait characteristics (shown below), or even the *Lumpy* family due to the 1834 obverse 12 lump above the date (shown below). However, no confident connection between these families has yet been made.

There are two documented varieties with two obverse and two reverse dies, both of which share a common edge die marriage. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). Both varieties are currently known by a single example.

Both varieties were struck on German silver planchets. Due to the small sample size of studied examples, planchet dimension consistency is difficult to assess.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short time in the early 1840s given the use of German silver planchets and high-quality workmanship.

The middle of Liberty's nose on 1836 Z8-GJ is curvy like the *Bumpy Nose* family varieties.

Raised metal above the date.

Table 1.41. *Provisional*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1834	12	FT	174	ACW	GS	R8		18-R
1836	8	GJ			GS	R8		12-L

Droopy Leaves

The *Droopy Leaves* family was named for the reverse leaf tips drooping down. There are two documented varieties both of which share an obverse and two different reverse dies. Both have reeded edges. No varieties were plated in Riddell (1845). 1838 Z11-HC is scarce while 1838 Z11-II is currently known by just one example.

Both varieties were struck on German silver planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions are tentatively consistent. Measured weights range from 12.7-13 grams with 30.9 mm diameters, and a thickness between 2.1 and 2.2 mm.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits for a short time in the early 1840s given the use of German silver planchets and high-quality workmanship.

Reverse HC (left) and II (right) both showing droopy ends to the leaves, especially the bottom pair of leaves.

Table 1.42. *Droopy Leaves*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Rarity	Riddell	Dav.
1838	11	HC	RE	RE	GS	R6		1-A
		II			GS	R8		Unl.

1811 Z1-A

Obverse: Date close. Fancy 8 and tall, thin 1s. Large, spikey stars. Liberty has no visible eye.
Reverse: SB at the lower-right serif of E1. SE right of the center of M. 'L' in PLURIBUS looks like an 'I'. T3 low compared with A1. CA widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.104-AAC	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1811 Z2-B

Obverse: Fancy 8, partially repunched left. Tall, thin 1s. 13 stars. Some stars, especially stars 1, 8 and 10 show minor repunching.
Reverse: SB at center of D. SE below left upright of M. 'I' in PLURIBUS below left edge of E3. US close in motto. Leaves are long and thin. Right-most leaves point inwards towards the denomination.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.117-AAR	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010).

1811
Z3-C

Obverse:	Tall, thin, widely spaced date. Second and third 1s are wider than 181. Large, thin, widely spaced, and slightly elongated appearing stars.
Reverse:	(Not enough detail visible to describe).

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	(unknown)	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1812
Z1-D

Obverse:	Wide date. 18 slightly wider than 812. 1s are small. Large, thin stars evenly spaced close to each other. Excellent portrait.
Reverse:	SB slightly right of center of E1. SE below the right base of A2. 'I' in PLURIBUS between AT in STATES. A1 above T3. Small arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon; Copper	LE.136-ABK	*Fancy 5s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1812 Z2-E

Obverse: Second 1 is lower than the 8. Large stars, evenly spaced. Liberty chin is small and pointed.
Reverse: SB possibly between ED. SE below left-most edge of M. Top of '5' lacks a clear 'stand'. Fat, wide arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	*Indented Left Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1813 Z1-F

Obverse: Date close. Fancy 8. Wide 1s with short bases. Small stars. Stars widely spaced on the left than right. Stars appear to have been added using a gang punch of two stars per punch.
Reverse: SB between IT. SE below left base of A2. UNITEDSTATES is one word. Evenly spaced denomination. Shield wide at base. Long, thin arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1813
Z1-G

Obverse:	Date close. Fancy 8. Wide 1s with short bases. Small stars. Stars widely spaced on the left than right. Stars appear to have been added using a gang punch of two stars per punch.
Reverse:	SB below right-half of E1. SE below right base of A. 'I' in PLURIBUS below right side of T3. Top two arrows long, bottom arrow short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-C (Davignon 2010).

1813
Z2-H

Obverse:	Small, thin date. Serifs of 1s indented like a 'Y'. Small, pointy stars. Liberty has a pointed nose.
Reverse:	SB below left stand of D. SE below left foot of right base of M. Small letters. Wide C's. S2 high. 5 leans left. Wide shield. Third pale gule has three stripes. Short arrows with medium-sized arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.128-ABC	*Y 1s* Family	Prime. 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1814 Z1-G

Obverse: Large, wide date. 14 close. Small, blunt stars. Stars on left widely spaced. Stars on right closely spaced.

Reverse: SB below right-half of E1. SE below right base of A. 'T' in PLURIBUS below right side of T3. Top two arrows long, bottom arrow short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
None	Billon (est.)	Lettered (?)	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 440 (1845), as shown, and Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1815 Z1-I

Obverse: Date wide. Thin, pincer-top 8. Large stars, closely spaced. Stars 2 and 12 repunched.

Reverse: SB touching right half of E1. SE between AM. Scroll nearly touches legend. Legend closely spaced. Backward N in UNITED. Small, thin U. Oversized F.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.118-AAS	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1815 Z2-J

Obverse: Date evenly spaced. Numerals lean right. Large, evenly spaced stars. Well-defined portrait.
Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below center of M. Scroll nearly touches legend. Legend closely spaced. Backward N in UNITED. Small, thin U. Oversized F.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.117-AAR	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010).

1815 Z3-K

Obverse: Small date, widely spaced. Pincer 8. Flat-top 1s. Large, thin stars evenly spaced.
Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left foot of right base of A2. N in motto below O in OF. A2 and A3 missing crossbar. Right-leaning 5. Bottom of 0 in 50 C. open. Small, short arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.136-ABK	*Fancy 5s* Family	**a)** Prime. Normal die rotation. **b)** **Rev**. die crack from N through IC.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1815 Z3-L

Obverse: Small date, widely spaced. Pincer 8. Flat-top 1s. Large, thin stars evenly spaced.
Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below right foot of A2. UN in motto below F in OF. 50 widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass (silver-plated)	LE.175-ACX	*Fancy 5s* Family	Prime. ~15 degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-E (Davignon 2010).

1815 Z4-M

Obverse: 5 repunched. Serifs of 1s indented like a 'Y'. Small, pointy stars, evenly spaced. Star 2 repunched. Liberty has a pointed nose.
Reverse: SB below right base of T1. SE below right base of F. Wide C's. OFAMERICA is one word. Wide shield. Short arrows with long arrowheads. Poorly executed eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE.128-ABC	*Y 1s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1815
Z5-N

Obverse: Large, closely-spaced date. Fancy 8. Large stars, closely spaced on the left.
Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below AM. Legend has large letters. Small 0 in 50 C. Large arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE unattributable	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-F (Davignon 2010).

1816
Z1-O

Obverse: Large, tall, evenly spaced date. Large, evenly spaced stars. Star 7 points to the front of Liberty's hair curl.
Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left upright of M. Fine lines below shield, left of arrow feathers, and above the left talons. Arrow shafts not connected through right talon.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.129-ABD	*Stone* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation and medal turn.

Comments: This variety is not to be confused with a privately produced, modern fantasy issue made in 2012.

1817 Z1-P

Obverse: Second 1 in date looks like an I. Oversized 7. Medium stars, mostly evenly spaced. Star 6 repunched.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. T2 repunched left. Missing top crossbar of I2. Top arrow shaft very thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Plain	*Ski Nose* Family	**Rev.** die rust at 50 C. and between D and scroll. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010). Example shown has strike doubling on the reverse.

1817 Z2-Q

Obverse: Small date, evenly spaced. Top serif of 1s lean downward. Small 7, tilted left. Small, misshapen, evenly spaced stars. Star 3 repunched. Liberty has a pointed nose.

Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below right base of A2. N missing in UNITED spelling UITED. 50 C. low. Top of C in 50 C. repunched north.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver; Brass	LE.128-ABC	*Y 1s* Family	Prime. **Rev.** die line from 4 o'clock to right wing. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (cccbhcc.com).

1818 Z1-R

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. Second 8 high. Large, pointy, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse: SB below left upright of E1. SE below center of M. Words in legend close together. I in PLURIBUS below right base of A1. Bottom arrow short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver; Copper/Brass	LE.137-ABL	*Stumpy Lower Arrow* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1818 Z2-S

Obverse: Small, thin date. Serifs of 1s indented like a 'Y'. Small, pointy stars, unevenly spaced. Liberty has a gracile nose. Mouth is puckered.
Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left upright of M. A1 and A3 missing crossbars. S2 leans right. Small letters. Wide C's. Long, narrow arrows tightly grouped.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Plain	*Y 1s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1818 Z3-T

Obverse: Date leans right. Wide 1s, thin 8s. Large stars, evenly spaced.
Reverse: SB below ED. SE below left edge of M. A3 touches top arrowhead. 50 C. tall. 50 widely spaced. Very large arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.117-AAR	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-H (Davignon 2010).

1818 Z4-U

Obverse: Date widely spaced. Stars evenly spaced, and stars 1-2 close.
Reverse: SB below middle of E1. SE below left upright of M. Lower, outer right wing curves inward. Middle crossbar on Es are weak. No outer feet or crossbar of A2.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	*Indented Left Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (Davignon 2010).

1818 Z5-D

Obverse: Small, widely spaced date. First 1 high. First 8 low. Large, thin, spindly stars. Star 7 points to the top of the front hair curls. Portrait well made.

Reverse: SB slightly right of center of E. SE at the right base of A2. 'T' in PLURIBUS between AT in STATES. A1 above T3. Small arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.136-ABK	*Fancy 5s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 11-K (cccbhcc.com).

1818 Z9-L

Obverse: Star 7 forward on the front hair curl.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below right foot of A2. UN in motto below F in OF. 50 widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Lettered (?)	*Fancy 5s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Unlisted in Davignon. Due to wear, the obverse description is weak at this time.

1818 Z6-V

Obverse: Large, thin date. Fancy 8s. Small stars on left, large stars on right, all evenly spaced.
Reverse: SB below right upright of D. SE below far left foot of M. Small S's in STATES. Upper loop defective in O in OF.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Unclear	*Stone* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010). One example is known double struck.

1818 Z7-W

Obverse: Small, wide date, far from Liberty. Last 8 high. Patch of 'die erosion' between last 18 and the field between Liberty. Large stars, closely spaced. Stars on right far from dentils.
Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left upright of M. Small eagle. Long left wing. Right wing overlaps top two arrows. Very short arrows. Very large olive branch. Large 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	LE.150-ABY	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010).

1818 Z8-X

Obverse:	Tall, thin, widely spaced date. First 1 high. Non-symmetrical stars. Stars 1 and 2, and 8 and 9 distant.
Reverse:	SB between TE. SE below left base of A2. Well spaced words in legend. AT joined at base. ICA low. Short arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	Singleton	Prime

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 10-J (cccbhcc.com).

1818 Z10-IJ

Obverse:	Large, thick, evenly spaced numbers in date. Large stars mostly evenly spaced.
Reverse:	SB upright of D. SE right foot of left base of M. UNITED STATES OF fairly closely spaced. OF AMERICA widely spaced. 50 C close to denticles. 5 larger than 0.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Unclear	Singleton	Prime

Comments: First documented in December 2024. The Liberty and Eagle portraits resemble other documented varieties but no firm association has yet been positively established to move this variety into a named Family.

1819 Z1-Y

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. Second 1 looks like a 'Y'. 9 is high. Small, misshapen, evenly spaced stars. Liberty has a more gracile nose. Mouth is puckered.

Reverse: SB below middle of E1. SE below right base of A2. High first U in UNUM. Wide C's.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.143-ABR	*Y 1s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1820 Z1-R

Obverse: Wide date. Square-base, no knob 2 leaning forward. Small 0. Not all stars may be from the same punch. Star 12 repunched.

Reverse: SB below left upright of E1. SE below center of M. Words in legend close together. I in PLURIBUS below right base of A1. Bottom arrow short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.137-ABL	*Stumpy Lower Arrow* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Obv.** die crack through cap.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1820
Z2-Z

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Square-base, no knob 2. Large, pointed stars, unevenly spaced. Nice portrait of Liberty.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. UN wide. TES high. Blunt serifs on S1 and S2. RI nearly touch at base. CA widely spaced. Partially re-engraved arrow base on top arrow.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver	LE.133-ABH	*Sans Serif S* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010). One example is known counterstamped PURE COIN.

1820
Z3-AA

Obverse: Large, unevenly punched, and widely-spaced date. Small 0 in date. Large stars which nearly touch..

Reverse: SB below center of D. SE below left upright of M. Large letters in legend. STATES OF widely spaced. IT and ME joined at base. Missing bottom arrow shaft through eagle's talon. Bottom right pair of leaves turns inwards to 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Plain	*BBB* Family	Prime

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1820
Z4-AB

Obverse: Medium, widely spaced date. Thin, semi curl-base 2 with small knob. Stars are not symmetrical. Partial 14th star behind cap and left of star 8. Left stars widely spaced. Right stars closely space.

Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below left edge of M. Small letters in legend. Left and right halves of D not connected. 50 C. low. 5 is large. Bottom right pair of leaves turns inwards to 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.117-AAR	*BBB* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev.** die crack from R to right wing. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1820
Z5-AC

Obverse: Wide date. Square base, no knob 2. Stars evenly spaced. Star 8 is different with longer, thinner ends. Tall, elongated, triangular-shaped dentils.

Reverse: SB below left serif of D. SE between A and M. Finely engraved arrow feathers. Arrow shafts missing around talons. Middle arrowhead longer than other two. Bottom right pair of leaves turns inwards to 50 C. Short, round dentils. Top-left motto ribbon chipped creating inward dip.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.118-AAS	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (cccbhcc.com). Off-center strikes are not uncommon.

1821
Z1-AD

Obverse: Wide date. 82 widely spaced. Large, square base, no knob 2. Large, evenly spaced stars. Portrait of Liberty well made.

Reverse: SB below center of D. SE below center of M. Large, generally thin letters in legend. 50 and C wide. Large 5 in 50 C. leans noticeably left. Top pair of berries not connected to stem. Bottom of eagle's wings are square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver	LRE.105-AAF; LE.106-AAI	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1821
Z1-AE

Obverse: Wide date. 82 widely spaced. Large, square base, no knob 2. Large, evenly spaced stars. Portrait of Liberty well made.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left of center of M. I in PLURIBUS below left base of T3. IC close, with C rotated right. Eagle has a prominent eye. Bottom of eagle's wings are square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon	LE.116-AAQ	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-C (Davignon 2010). One example is known double struck on each side.

1821
Z1-AF

Obverse: Wide date. 82 widely spaced. Large, square base, no knob 2. Large, evenly spaced stars. Portrait of Liberty well made.

Reverse: SB between ED. SE between AM. I in PLURIBUS between AT. Small letters in OF AMERICA except for a large E3. Small 50 C, widely spaced and low. Bottom of eagle's wings are square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.115-AAP	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-E (Davignon 2010). An example was discovered by a metal detectorist in New Hampshire in 2015.

1821
Z2-AG

Obverse: Large date. First 1 high and distant from 8. Large, evenly spaced stars. Star 7 points to gap between forehead hair curl and headband. Hair is thinly engraved.

Reverse: SB below gap between ED. SE below left upright of M. U in PLURIBUS centered under E2. Ends of feathers square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.106-AAI	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-H (cccbhcc.com).

1821 Z3-AH

Obverse: Large date. Tall 1s. Square base, no knob 2. 18 is rotated right. Large stars. Stars on right are more widely spaced than those on the left. Portrait of Liberty is well made.

Reverse: SB below right half of E1. SE below left of center of M. Letters in legend are very good. Small, low 50 C, and missing the period. Small arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	*Stone* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-F (Davignon 2010).

1821 Z4-AI

Obverse: 182 close, second 1 distant. 18 low, 21 high. Small, unevenly spaced stars.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E. SE below left foot of M. I in PLURIBUS below left foot and upright of T3. Somewhat thin lettering in legend. Top arrows is small and not symmetrical.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 25 and 50	Brass	LE.121-AAW; PE	*Ski Nose* family	**a)** Prime. Normal die rotation. **b)** **Rev.** die break from S2 through right part of scroll, through the middle of the right wing, and exiting down through the top arrow; strike weakness in OF may result. Medal turn.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-D (Davignon 2010). 1 example is known with a double struck, 180-degree rotated reverse, possibly as a die alignment test strike for the rotated reverse dies.

1822
Z1-AC

Obverse: Large, widely spaced date. 1 high. Stars fairly evenly spaced. Stars 10 and 11 wide. Star 13 dips below back hair curl.

Reverse: SB below left serif of D. SE between A and M. Finely engraved arrow feathers. Arrow shafts missing around talons. Middle arrowhead longer than other two. Bottom right pair of leaves turns inwards to 50 C. Short, round dentils. Top-left motto ribbon chipped creating inward dip.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.118-AAT	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 12-L (Davignon 2010).

1822
Z2-AJ

Obverse: Evenly spaced date. 1 high. Flat-base 2 with back serifs angled right. Stars evenly spaced. Star 13 points to corner of hair curl. Well made portrait.

Reverse: SB below gap between ED. SE below gap between AM. 50 and C wide and slanting left. Wings somewhat small. Arrow feathers very thin. Talons unequally sized.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.118-AAS	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-H (Davignon 2010). Different eagle design than other members of this family.

1822
Z2-AK

Obverse: Evenly spaced date. 1 high. Flat-base 2 with back serifs angled right. Stars evenly spaced. Star 13 points to corner of hair curl. Well made portrait.

Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE between A and M. Long middle arrowhead. Die bulge on left wing immediately below the eagle. Bottom right pair of leaves turns inwards to 50 C. Short, round dentils. Top-left motto ribbon chipped creating inward dip.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.118-AAS	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1822
Z3-AF

Obverse: Wide date. Fancy 8. Square base, no knob 2s. Small stars. Stars 4-5 and 6-7 distant. Stars 11-12 close.

Reverse: SB between ED. SE between AM. I in PLURIBUS between AT. Small letters in OF AMERICA except for a large E3. Small 50 C, widely spaced and low. Bottom of eagle's wings are square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.106-AAI	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1822
Z4-AL

Obverse: Wide, evenly spaced date. Large, evenly spaced stars. Outside points of stars nearly touch denticles.
Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Large 5 and small 0 in 50 C. Bottom of eagle's wings are square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	*Square Tip* Family.	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1822
Z5-AM

Obverse: Normal, closely-spaced date. Square base, no knob 2s. Slightly oversized, evenly spaced stars. Very good portrait with a shorter chin than authentic coins.
Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below right foot of left upright of M. S2 low. Repunched C1 north in AMERICA.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 25 and 50	Copper (silver-plated)	LE.131-ABF	*Top Gun* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 444 (1845) and Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1822
Z6-AN

Obverse: Very wide date. Large, pointed stars. Stars 1 and 2 distant. Stars 5 and 6 close, almost overlapping.
Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left edge of M. TE in UNITED joined. 50 C. low. Short arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.133-ABH	*Sans Serif S* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (cccbhcc.com).

1822
Z7-AO

Obverse: Large date. Tall, thin, fancy 8. Thin, square base, no knob 2. Large, thin, pointed, and evenly spaced stars.
Reverse: SB below upright of E1. SE below right base of A2. A1 and A2 high. 50 and C. both lean right. Top arrow shaft is very long and thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.???-AAG	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010).

1822
Z8-AQ

Obverse:	Very large date. Small stars. Stars on left close. Stars 8, 9, 10 distant.
Reverse:	SB between E and D. SE below left upright of M. UNITEDSTATESOF closely spaced. Large C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE-unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1822
Z9-AR

Obverse:	Date close, especially 82. 1 is high. Small stars, evenly spaced.
Reverse:	SB below upright of E1. SE below left half of M. Inconsistent letter sizes in legend. E1 small. D large. OF small, with a noticeable gap between both letters.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LRE-unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Medal Turn.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 11-K (cccbhcc.com).

1822
Z10-AS

Obverse: Large, wide date, with all numerals tilted right. Square base, no knob 2s. Large stars. Stars 1 and 2 close.

Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below center of M. U low. D high. S2 high. A2 low. M repunched left. R is filled. UNITEDSTATES reads as one word. 50 C. widely spaced with a large 5.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.151-ABZ	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-M (cccbhcc.com).

1822
Z11-AT

Obverse: Large, thin, widely spaced date. Square base, no knob 2s. Large, closely spaced, pointed stars.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below right upright of M. Large, unevenly sized letters in Legend. Legend reads as one word. Bottom arrowhead repunched down.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass (est.)	LE-unattributable	Singleton	Prime

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 14-N (cccbhcc.com).

1823 Z1-AM

Obverse: Normal 3 in date. Slightly oversized, evenly spaced stars. Very good portrait with a shorter chin than authentic coins.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below right foot of left upright of M. S2 low. Repunched C1 north in AMERICA.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
100s	Billon; silver plated copper	LE.131-ABF	*Top Gun* Family	Prime. Normal and 15-20 degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010). A blank copper planchet apparently with the same edge lettering is known. One example is counterstamped 'BAD'. 2 are in TPG holders.

1823 Z2-AU

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. 3 resembles the 'ugly 3'. Regular, fairly evenly spaced stars. One spike of each star is longer than the remaining five spikes.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below right foot of left base of M. S in PLURIBUS is backwards. Small, wide 50 C. Short arrows. Bottom arrow is very short. No arrow shaft through claw.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.142-ABQ	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1823
Z3-AV

Obverse:	Normal, evenly spaced date. Curl of 2 leans forward. Large, evenly spaced stars. Star 7 points to top-left edge of cap.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below left upright of M. Thick scroll. Large letters in motto. Large letters in legend. RI touch at base. STATESOF close. Large, high C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.141-ABP	*Medalist* Family	**a)** Prime. Die link from rim to middle arrowhead. ~30° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 10-J (cccbhcc.com).

1823
Z4-AV

Obverse:	Oversized date. Large curls at the tops of 2 and 3. Large unevenly spaced stars on the left, and medium stars on the right. Stars 8 and 9 widely spaced.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below left upright of M. Thick scroll. Large letters in motto. Large letters in legend. RI touch at base. STATESOF close. Large, high C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.141-ABP	*Medalist* Family	Prime

Comments: None.

1823
Z5-AW

Obverse:	Date very faint. Flat base, no knob 2. 3 appears normal. Stars 3 and 4 close.
Reverse:	SB below right half of E1. SE below center or right half of M. 50 and C quite wide. Short arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (cccbhcc.com).

1824
Z1-AU

Obverse:	Evenly spaced date. Tall 1. Fancy 8. Evenly spaced stars. Wedge-shaped eye.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below right foot of left base of M. S in PLURIBUS is backwards. Small, wide 50 C. Short arrows. Bottom arrow is very short. No arrow shaft through claw.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 25	Billon; German silver	LE.125-AAZ; LE.142-ABQ; LE.144-ABS	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1824
Z2-AX

Obverse:	Slightly oversized, evenly spaced stars. Very good portrait with a shorter chin than authentic coins.
Reverse:	SB below right-quarter of E1. SE below left upright of M. I in PLURIBUS centered below T3. Excellent execution overall.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.131-ABF	*Top Gun* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 446 (1845) and Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010). The true population of this variety is probably closer to 25 to 50.

1825
Z1-AK

Obverse:	Wide date. Tall 1. Small, fancy 8. Die line through left side of 5. 5 leans left.
Reverse:	SB below upright of D. SE between A and M. Long middle arrowhead. Die bulge on left wing immediately below the eagle. Bottom right pair of leaves turns inwards to 50 C. Short, round dentils. Top-left motto ribbon chipped creating inward dip.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.118-AAS	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1825
Z2-AY

Obverse: Large, tall date. High, wide 1. Large, disproportional, unequal, closely spaced stars.
Reverse: SB between E and D. SE below right edge of A2. Unevenly aligned and spaced letters in legend. S1 repunched left. Right serifs of F joined by thin, scraggly line. Wide top-left serif of M. 5 0 and C in denomination evenly spaced. Arrows short. Top arrow touches A3. No arrow shaft through claw.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.118-AAS	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010).

1825
Z3-AM

Obverse: Normal date. 2 high related to 8. Slightly oversized, evenly spaced stars. Stars distant from edge. Star 8 nearly touches headband. Very good portrait with a shorter chin than authentic coins. Small centering dot on neck. Die chip on cap near star 8.
Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below right foot of left upright of M. S2 low. Repunched C1 north in AMERICA.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
100s	Billon; silver plated copper	LE.131-ABF	*Top Gun* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation, and medal turn; ~5% of examples have medal turn

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 447 (1845) and Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010). H.P. Smith auction of 3/24/1882 called this the 'best counterfeit ever struck' (sold for $0.12). An example was previously graded AU-50 by PCGS, and 2 other examples are in TPG holders.

1825
Z4-AX

Obverse: 2 below 8 in date. Slightly oversized, evenly spaced stars. Star 7 distant from headband. Very good portrait with a shorter chin than authentic coins.

Reverse: SB below right-quarter of E1. SE below left upright of M. I in PLURIBUS centered below T3. Excellent execution overall.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10 (est. 25 to 50)	Billon; silver plated copper	LE.131-ABF	*Top Gun* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1825
Z5-AZ

Obverse: Large date. 82 slightly taller than 1 and 5. 5 tilted left. Large, pointed, thin and fairly evenly spaced stars. Eye shaped like a downward facing P.

Reverse: SB below right half of E1. SE below just right of center of M. R high and I low in PLURIBUS. C and A in AMERICA widely spaced. Long, thin arrows and arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver	LRE.105-AAF	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1825
Z6-BB

Obverse: Wide, unevenly set, and crude numerals in date. Small 8. Large 25. Large, close, evenly spaced stars. Stars 3 and 9 repunched. Long, square denticles.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below right foot of left stand of M. S1 and S2 look like 8s. Letters RICA in AMERICA are small. No vertical stem in 5 of 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Plain	*Indented Left Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1825
Z7-BC

Obverse: Date widely space. Small stars. Stars on left close to denticles. Stars on right distant from denticles.

Reverse: SB between ED. SE below left foot of M. 50 low. 5 larger than 0 in denomination.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon	LE.101-AAB	*Square Tip* Family	**a)** Prime. **Rev.** die 'rust' above ME. Normal die rotation. **b)** **Obv.** die 'rust' at stars 6 and 7. **Rev.** die 'rust' between TE in STATES and C in AMERICA. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010).

1825
Z8-BD

Obverse:	Close, evenly spaced date with thin numerals. Top of 5 curls up. Evenly spaced stars. Star 13 close to hair curl.
Reverse:	SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left base of M. Top of D may be broken. Re-engraved eagle feathers left of shield.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (cccbhcc.com).

1825
Z9-BE

Obverse:	Small date. Small stars. Stars 2 and 5 close.
Reverse:	SB below right quarter of E1. SE between AM and closer to M. Small denomination. Short arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	Plain	Singleton	Prime. Slight clock-wise die rotation

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 10-J (cccbhcc.com). Oversized planchet.

1826
Z1-AH

Obverse:	Large, evenly spaced date. 8 dips below 1 and 2. Normal, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse:	SB below right third of E1. SE between left upright and center of M. I in PLURIBUS left of center of T2. Small, low denomination. All examples seen have strike weakness at AM.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon	LE.129-ABD	*Stone* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 448 (1845) and Davignon 2-B and 4-D (Davignon 2010). One example is known double-struck off-center.

1826
Z2-BF

Obverse:	Tall, thin, evenly spaced date. Left stars close. Right stars distant from denticles. Stars 6 and 7 crowded.
Reverse:	SB below right half of E1. SW below left foot of right upright of M. Little space between words in legend.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon	LE.129-ABD	*Stone* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 449 (1845), Taxay 29 (Taxay 1963), and Davignon 3-C and 8-H (Davignon 2010). Examples are reported as being double struck on each side (shown); this may be related to 'die bounce' from the striking process. Known with thick (2.1-2.2 mm) and thinner (~1.8 mm) planchets. Some examples have inverted edge lettering.

1826 Z7-V

Obverse:	Bulge in upper-right curve of 2. 26 relatively close. Normal, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse:	SB below right upright of D. SE below far left foot of M. Small S's in STATES. Upper loop defective in O in OF.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	*Stone* Family	Prime

Comments: First documented in 2022.

1826 Z3-BG

Obverse:	Low, thin date. Knob 6. Poorly formed, unequally spaced stars. Stars 8 and 9 nearly touch.
Reverse:	SB below right quarter of E1. SE below center of M. Thin, crude letters in legend and denomination. Short upright on 5. 5 leans slightly left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver; Copper/brass	LE.103-AAC	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1826
Z4-AG

Obverse: Tall, thin, evenly spaced date. 1 high. Large, evenly spaced and well formed stars.
Reverse: SB below gap between ED. SE below left upright of M. U in PLURIBUS centered under E2. Ends of feathers square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.106-AAI	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in December 2022.

1826
Z4-BH

Obverse: Tall, thin, evenly spaced date. 1 high. Large, evenly spaced and well formed stars.
Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Several letters in motto missing serifs. Top serifs on N connected. Small F. Small letters in motto. Tall 5 and small 0 C in denomination. Diamond shaped feathers on right wing.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.106-AAI	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 10-J and 14-N (Davignon 2010).

1826
Z5-BI

Obverse:	Tall, closely spaced date. Small knob on 2. 6 high with a tall stem. Stars 1 and 2 close. Stars 4 and 5 widely spaced. Star 13 close to hair curl.
Reverse:	SB below center of E1. SE below left upright of M. Legend has large letters and closely spaced words. Short arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-Q (cccbhcc.com).

1826
Z6-BJ

Obverse:	Wide, evenly spaced date. Large stars. Star 13 well under Liberty.
Reverse:	SB center of E1. SE below left upright of M. 50 and C. wide. Fancy 5. Eagle's right wing may touch top arrow.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	(unknown)	(unknown)	Singleton	Prime

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 18-R. Higher-grade example needed to identify better details.

1827
Z1-AV

Obverse: Tall, closely spaced date. Long, downward curled 2. Disproportional stars. Stars generally evenly spaced. Medallic portrait of Liberty. Liberty has a bold eye.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left upright of M. Thick scroll. Large letters in motto. Large letters in legend. RI touch at base. STATESOF close. Large, high C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE.141-ABP	*Medalist* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010). One example is known double struck off-center.

1827
Z2-BK

Obverse: Small, low, evenly spaced date. 2 has a wide base and the knob is filled. Small, evenly spaced stars. Some stars should shelf doubling. Die blobs in right field and below star 13.

Reverse: SB below upright of E1. SE below right foot of left upright of M. Small letters in legend. Inside of R filled. Crude letters in motto. Backwards N in motto. Die blobs around eagles neck. Long, thin talons on the eagle. Long arrows which nearly touch the denticles.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE.152-ACA	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010).

1827
Z3-BL

Obverse: Date is tall and closely spaced. Large, evenly spaced stars. Stars 5 and 6 close.
Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left edge of M. 50 C high. 50 small, C large.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.102-AAC	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010). This edge die was also used with *Buck-Toothed Eagle* family varieties.

1828
Z1-AA

Obverse:	Small, widely spaced date. 1 low. Tall, narrow 8s. Small stars. Stars 1, 8 and 13 nearly touch portrait. Portrait of Liberty leans back.
Reverse:	SB below center of D. SE below left upright of M. Large letters in legend. STATES OF widely spaced. IT and ME joined at base. Missing bottom arrow shaft through eagle's talon. Bottom right pair of leaves turns inwards to 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-M (Davignon 2010).

1828
Z2-BM

Obverse:	Medium, widely spaced date. Large, pointed stars. Stars 1 and 2 crowded and close to Liberty. Star 13 close to second 8. Portrait high and left of center.
Reverse:	SB below right quarter of E1. SE below right foot of right side of M. Legend reads as one word. Small, high U. Oversized Es in legend. Serifs of C in AMERICA are vertical forming right angles. A3 and arrows distant. UNUM widely spaced. 50 C. low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 452 (1845) where a finer example is show, and Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1828
Z3-AZ

Obverse: Large, somewhat thin date. Large, thin, pointy stars. Extra metal on inside curve of 2. Stars 1 and 2, 8 and 9, and 12 and 13 relatively distant. Large portrait of Liberty.

Reverse: SB below right half of E1. SE below just right of center of M. R high and I low in PLURIBUS. C and A in AMERICA widely spaced. Long, thin arrows and arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.105-AAF	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-P (Davignon 2010).

1828
Z3-BA

Obverse: Large, somewhat thin date. Large, thin, pointy stars. Extra metal on inside curve of 2. Stars 1 and 2, 8 and 9, and 12 and 13 relatively distant. Large portrait of Liberty.

Reverse: SB below upright of E1. SE below right foot of A2. Unevenly oriented letters in legend. Large scroll and tall letters in motto. Eagle's head has no details. Long arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 25	German silver	LRE.105-AAF	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A and 12-L (Davignon 2010).

1828
Z4-AP

Obverse: Tall, closely spaced date. Tall 8s. 2 rotated slightly clockwise. Large, thin, pointy stars. Stars 1 and 2, and 8 and 9 relatively distant.

Reverse: SB below center of D. SE below left foot of right base of M. Top serifs of U connected. Vertical die line right of T2. Tall letters in motto. A3 and arrows distant. Eagle very low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver	LE.107-AAG	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 453 (1845) and Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1828
Z5-BN

Obverse: Tall, thin, widely spaced date. 1 low. 82 widely spaced. Large, thin stars. Star 3 slightly out of alignment with other curving stars.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below far right foot of A2.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE-105-AAF	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1828
Z6-BO

Obverse: Large, thin date. 1 low. 182 tilt right. 28 close. Large, thin, pointed-tipped, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 4 and 5 close.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below right base of A2. A1 high. ICA widely spaced. Long, thin arrowheads. Raised line protruding from left wing.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LRE.105-AAG	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal and medal turn die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010).

1828
Z7-BP

Obverse: Tall, low, closely spaced date. Large, closely spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Portrait left of center.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below gap between A2 and M. Uprights of U connected. Eagle low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.107-AAG	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. ~20 and 230-degree CCW.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 11-K (Davignon 2010). Two examples are known double struck, including the example shown. Gang punches were used.

1828
Z8-BQ

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. 2 is half under a hair curl. Large, moderately evenly spaced stars. Stars 5 and 6 nearly touch. Star 7 distant from Liberty's forehead.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left foot of right upright of M. Top arrow is distant from the second arrow. 50 tilts right. Period after 50 C. is far from the C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.105-AAH	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1828
Z9-BR

Obverse: Tall, thin, closely spaced date shifted far left. 1 nearly touches the portrait. Inner curl of 2 touches upright, closing loop. Non symmetrical stars. Stars 5, 6, 7 very closely spaced. Stars 1, 7 and 13 show repunching (other stars may show signs of repunching as well). Portrait slightly high.

Reverse: SB below right foot of T1. SE below right foot of A2. Large scroll. Thick letters in legend, except CA which are thinner. ES high. 50 C. low. 50 and C widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver; Billon	LE.145-ABT; LE.146-ABU	*Bug-Eyed* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Dav. 2010). LE.145-ABT associated with a billon planchet and LE.146-ABU associated with a German silver planchet; other combinations may exist.

1828
Z10-BS

Obverse: Tall, wide, unevenly spaced and oriented date. First 8 low. 28 high. 18 and 28 lean right. Loop in 2 closed. Large, generally widely spaced stars. Stars all oriented next to or overlapping the denticles.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left foot of right base of M. 50 C close and high. Top crossbar of 5 leans left. S1 low. A2 high.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	LE-unattributable	*Bug-Eyed* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 19-T (cccbhcc.com).

1828
Z11-BT

Obverse: Tall, thin, low, evenly-spaced date. Outside of stars overlap denticles. Inner curl of 2 nearly touches upright, closing loop. Stars 11 to 13 widely spaced.

Reverse: SB left edge of D. SE left of center of M. U in UNITED and 50 C. touch denticles. 0 in 50 C. low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.147-ABV	*Bug-Eyed* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1828
Z12-BU

Obverse: High date. Tall 1. Small 8s. Large, pointed, non-symmetrical stars. Stars on left closely spaced. Stars 6 and 7 very close. Portrait oriented left.

Reverse: SB below left upright of E1. SE below center of M. Legend reads as one word. D low. 5 0 C evenly spaced. Tall 5. Thin gules stripes in shield.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.113-AAO	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 14-N (Davignon 2010).

1828
Z13-BV

Obverse: Large, thin, high date. 18 close. Large, unevenly spaced stars. 6 x 7 star orientation instead of the normal 7 x 6 star orientation.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Large, unevenly oriented letters in legend. 50 C low. 50 and C widely space.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Plain	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-R (cccbhcc.com). Example shown is double struck.

1828
Z14-BW

Obverse: Small, widely spaced date. Small stars. Star 1 far from portrait. Stars 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 closely spaced.
Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. M tilted far right. A1 low. S2 high. A1 and T3 touch. Tall 5, leans left. Thin gules stripes in shield.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 18-S (cccbhcc.com).

1828
Z15-BX

Obverse: Date slopes down to the right. 1 nearly touches portrait. Fancy 8s. Star 7 high and nearly touches cap. Stars 1 to 7 close, stars 8 to 13 widely spaced.
Reverse: SB right of center of E1. SE left edge of M. M tilted far right. T3 below A1. I in PLURIBUS just left of center of T3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1829 Z1-BY

Obverse:	Wide, tall, thin date. 29 high. 9 nearly touches portrait. Small, evenly spaced stars. Stars on left far from denticles. Stars on right close to denticles.
Reverse:	SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. T2 repunched left. Missing top crossbar of I2. Top arrow shaft very thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE-unattributable	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1829 Z2-BZ

Obverse:	Large, wide, unevenly space date. 2 low. 9 high. Large, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 5 and 6 nearly touch. Star 7 high.
Reverse:	SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left upright of M. T2 and T3 have thick top crossbars. Top crossbar in 5 slants left. C in denomination rotated counterclockwise.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.???-AAC	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1829
Z3-BZ

Obverse: Large date. 182 close, 9 distant. Large, closely spaced stars. Point of star 7 nearly touches portrait.
Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left upright of M. T2 and T3 have thick top crossbars. Top crossbar in 5 slants left. C in denomination rotated counterclockwise.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 454 (1845) and Davignon 11-B (Davignon 2010).

1829
Z4-CA

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. 2 low. Large, closely spaced stars close to denticles. Stars 6 and 7 wide. Stars 1, 8 and 13 close to portrait.
Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of right upright of M. Top and bottom serifs of TE connect in UNITED. S2 high. 50 and C widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-O (Davignon 2010).

1829
Z4-CB

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. 2 low. Large, closely spaced stars close to denticles. Stars 6 and 7 wide. Stars 1, 8 and 13 close to portrait.

Reverse: SB below right side of upright of E1. SE below center of M. Large letters in legend. UNITED-STATES reads as one word. S1 high. E1 and scroll connected. C in 50 C rotated left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-unattributable	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-I (Davignon 2010).

1829
Z4-CC

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. 2 low. Large, closely spaced stars close to denticles. Stars 6 and 7 wide. Stars 1, 8 and 13 close to portrait.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left of center of M. Upper serif of D missing. ED, TA, and ME touch at base. OF slants right. M slanted right. Small 0 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver; Copper	LE.???-AAD	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-H and 15-P (Davignon 2010). One example is known double-struck on the obverse. Davignon 1829 15-P was likely a test strike.

1829
Z5-CD

Obverse: Large date. 1 and 2 low. Large stars close to denticles. Stars 5, 6, 7 widely spaced. Star 7 distant from portrait. Star 8 nearly touches portrait.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below right foot of left upright of M. U low. R below E2. C in AMERICA touches denticles. A3 and arrows distant. Long, nearly squared ends on the denticles.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.104-???	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. 90° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-N (Davignon 2010).

1829
Z6-CE

Obverse: Large, widely spaced, crude date. 1 high. Wide, no knob 2 tilted right. 9 tilted right. Large, closely spaced stars. Star 1 distant from portrait. Stars 8, 9, 10 and especially 13 are repunched.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left of center of M. E1 high. ES tiled up. AM touch at base. M above E3. MERI nearly touch at base. Large, tall denomination.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-Unattributable	*Pointed Wing* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. die crack from 5, thru leaves, thru lower left wing, into UN, continuing thru the base of I1 to the start of the scroll. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 20-U (cccbhcc.com).

1829
Z7-CF

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced, centered date. 8 low. 9 high. Large, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below gap between A2 and M. D low. E2 low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.129-ABD	*Stone* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 18-S (Davignon 2010).

1829
Z8-CG

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. Medium sized, unevenly spaced stars. Short, thin denticles.
Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below left upright of M. Small letters in legend. Letters in AMERICA close. AM and RI connected at base. 50 C small. Eagle somewhat undersized.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LRE.153-ACB	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010).

1829
Z9-CH

Obverse: Small, thin, widely spaced date. 2 is filled. Medium sized, non-symmetrical stars. Star 7 nearly touches portrait.

Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below center of M. Thin letters in legend. Legend reads as one word. Tall U. A3 far from C1 and arrows. C1 appears repunched. 50 C high. Short arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-Unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Medal turn.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-R (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z1-P

Obverse: Small, thin, centered date. Very thin 8. Bottom curve of 0 barely connects. Small, non-oriented stars. Stars on left distant from denticles. Stars 2, 3, 4 close. Star 4 repunched.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. T2 repunched left. Missing top crossbar of I2. Top arrow shaft very thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LRE.119-AAU	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 15 (Taxay 1963), Davignon 1-A (also shares reverse S and U) (Davignon 2010). One example is known double-struck on the obverse.

1830 Z2-P

Obverse: Wide date. Unevenly sized numbers in date. 3 is large. Medium sized stars. Stars 1, 2, 3 and 5 repunched. Liberty leans back.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. T2 repunched left. Missing top crossbar of I2. Top arrow shaft very thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver; Copper/Brass	LE.120-AAV; Plain	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation. Known with and without the raised areas left of AT in STATES.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-S (Davignon 2010). Strike doubling is common.

1830 Z3-CI

Obverse: Medium sized, evenly spaced date. Thick 8. 3 tilts right. Small, evenly spaced stars.

Reverse: (The reverse die is not clear enough to determine whether it is unique or if it is the same as reverse P within the *Ski Nose* family as referenced by Zack; future research may resolve this matter.)

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	Plain	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 19-U (cccbhcc.com).

1830
Z4-CJ

Obverse:	Evenly spaced date. Right-half of 3 under lower hair curls.
Reverse:	SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. T2 repunched left. Missing top crossbar of I2. Top arrow shaft very thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Lettered (?)	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 21-W (cccbhcc.com). Based on the available photos of this variety, the reverse die cannot be conclusively determined to be unique or whether it is shared with a different obverse die; future research may resolve this matter.

1830
Z5-CK

Obverse:	Large 3 dipping below 8 and 0. 83 close. Small, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse:	SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. T2 repunched left. Missing top crossbar of I2. Top arrow shaft very thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Copper	Plain	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2019.

1830
Z6-AL

Obverse: Wide, medium sized date. 83 wide. Large, evenly spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 7, 8, and 13 nearly touch portrait.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Large 5 and small 0 in 50 C. Bottom of eagle's wings are square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.106-AAI	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 16-R (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z7-AL

Obverse: Wide date. 183 wide. 30 close. 1 high. 0 low. Medium sized, evenly and widely spaced stars.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Large 5 and small 0 in 50 C. Bottom of eagle's wings are square.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.106-AAI	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 24-R (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z8-AO

Obverse: Low, evenly spaced date. Small 0. Large, closely spaced stars close to denticles. Stars 3-4 and 6-7 nearly touch.

Reverse: SB below upright of E1. SE below right base of A2. A1 and A2 high. 50 and C. both lean right. Top arrow shaft is very long and thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.105-AAG	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1830
Z9-CL

Obverse: Small, wide date. 1 high, close to portrait. Small, non-oriented stars. Stars 5-7 distant. Small portrait.

Reverse: SB below gap between T1 and E1. SE below center of A2. Small, unevenly set letters in legend. OF and AMERICA distant. I in PLURIBUS below left base of A1. Small denomination. Period is high on C in denomination. Long, nearly parallel arrows point down.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 25 and 50	German silver; Billon; Brass	LE.148-ABW	*1830 Counterfeiter* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010); possibly Taxay 16 (Taxay 1963). 1 example is known boldly double struck.

1830 Z9-IG

Obverse: Small, wide date. 1 high, close to portrait. Small, non-oriented stars. Stars 5-7 distant. Small portrait.
Reverse: Pair of leaves left of 5 split. ER widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Brass; Billon	LE.148-ABW	*1830 Counterfeiter* Family	Prime. Normal and ~30-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: 1 example is known boldly double struck.

1830 Z9-CM

Obverse: Small, wide date. 1 high, close to portrait. Small, non-oriented stars. Stars 5-7 distant. Small portrait.
Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below center of E3. Small, unevenly set letters in legend. ERICA widely spaced. Small eagle. A3 distant from arrows. Period is centered on C in denomination.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.148-ABW	*1830 Counterfeiter* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-N (Davignon 2010); possibly Taxay 16 (Taxay 1963). One example is known double struck.

1830
Z10-CN

Obverse: Large, widely spaced date. 1 high. 3 large. Small, well-oriented, and slightly elongated stars.
Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Small letters in legend. TES high. 50 C widely spaced and low. Boldly cut feathers.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z11-CO

Obverse: Medium sized, evenly spaced, well centered date. 3 slightly low. Small, well formed stars.
Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. Tops of E1, D and S1 very weak. Tall, thin lines make a crude 5. 0 is formed from two crescent shapes not connected at top or bottom.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon	LRE.100r-AAAr; Plain; HRE	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. 30-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (Davignon 2010). The reverse may have originally copied a genuine CBH through the transfer die process, but no die match has been made.

1830 Z23-CO

Obverse: 0 in date rotated counterclockwise. Elongated stars many of which nearly touch the denticles. Large, wide, square denticles. High-quality die work.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. Tops of E1, D and S1 very weak. Tall, thin lines make a crude 5. 0 is formed from two crescent shapes not connected at top or bottom.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Lettered(?)	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First reported in 2024.

1830 Z12-CP

Obverse: Medium sized, closely spaced date. 3 and 0 may appear repunched on some examples. Well formed, evenly spaced stars. Star 2 may be faintly repunched. 1 slightly high. Die lumps below 13 and within 83, and around stars 12 and 13 and adjacent denticles.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below right upright of M. Small letters in legend. AM and CA widely spaced. Inside top of R filled.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.111-AAM; Plain	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 14-P (Davignon 2010). Obverse number devices different from all other *Buck-Toothed Eagle* counterfeits. Raised devices around stars 12-13 possibly from die rust.

1830
Z18-CV

Obverse:	Large, evenly spaced date. 0 is repunched high and low, and possibly four times overall. Medium, evenly spaced stars. Portrait well formed.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below right foot of left upright of M. 0 in 50 C centered below a denticle. All die elements are excellent and evenly spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.130-ABE	*Mint Mimicked* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-M (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z13-CQ

Obverse:	Large, evenly spaced date. Medium, evenly spaced stars. 7 x 6 star orientation; one example is missing star 7 making it appear like a 6 x 6 star orientation. Stars 5, 6, 7 faint. Overall appearance is very good. Stars 10 and 12 point between denticles.
Reverse:	SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Inside of A2 and A3 filled. A2, M, C, A3 repunched.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.130-ABE	*Mint Mimicked* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 20-V (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z22-IB

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Medium, evenly spaced stars. Star 10 and Star 12 over top of denticles.
Reverse: SB below right edge of E. SE below left foot of M. D is triple-punched.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	LRE.130-ABE	*Mint Mimicked* Family	Prime? **Rev.** Die crack through F, NU in motto, to field above eagle's neck.

Comments: First documented in 2022.

1830
Z15-CS

Obverse: Closely spaced date. Small, thin stars. Star 7 repunched.
Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below left upright of M. Unevenly sized and oriented letters in legend. I2 and A3 repunched. 50 C close, low and nearly touching denticles.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LRE.139-ABN	*Lumpy* family	Prime. ~20-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z14-CR

Obverse: Small, thin, evenly spaced date. 1 and 0 high. Small, non-oriented stars. Stars 6 and 7 relatively distant.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. Medium sized letters in legend. Letters CA small and distant. 50 small, and rotated right.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 25	German silver	LRE.154-ACC	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z16-CT

Obverse: Large, well centered date. Medium, evenly spaced stars. Stars 6 and 7 widely spaced. Die chip on bust and in front of star 1. Overall appearance is excellent.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E. SE below right foot of left upright of M. AM nearly touch. Die lumps in field below arrows and talon. Overall appearance is excellent.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LRE.155-ACD	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 456 (1845) and Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1830
Z17-CU

Obverse:	Medium, evenly spaced date. 0 slightly high. Large, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE between A2 and M.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-Unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010). Strike is extremely weak, potentially indicative of a transfer die.

1830
Z19-CW

Obverse:	Medium sized, evenly spaced date. 3 low. Medium-small stars.
Reverse:	SB below right corner of E1. SE below left upright of M. Bottom of letters in legend crimped.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver; Billon	LRE.156-ACE	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 22-X (Davignon 2010). Closely resembles O-104/5 but there are enough design differences which do not match.

1830
Z20-CX

Obverse:	Thin faced Liberty showing high and protruding chin. Blunt stars uniformly spaced with recutting of Star 5. Star 7 points to the base of the headband by forecurl.
Reverse:	A2 far from M. AM wide. I in EPU centered under T3. Short upright on 5 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	Lettered (?)	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 27-BB (cccbhcc.com).

1830
Z21-IA

Obverse:	Comparing the star-to-denticle alignment differentiates this variety from other similar high-quality 1830 obverse dies.
Reverse:	SB left edge of D. SE left foot of M. I centered under T3. Large, high C in 50c. Comparing the letter-to-denticle alignment differentiates this variety from other similar high-quality reverse dies.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	LRE.157-ACF	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1831
Z1-F

Obverse: Large, tall, widely spaced date. Small, well formed stars. Widely spaced stars on left. Closely spaced stars on right. Star 1 has an extra point at the bottom.

Reverse: SB between IT. SE under left base of A2. UNITEDSTATES is one word. Evenly spaced denomination. Shield wide at base. Long, thin arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-M (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z2-CY

Obverse: Large, tall, low date. First 1 high. 1s missing top serif. Small, well oriented, slightly unevenly spaced stars.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left foot of M. Small letters in legend, close to denticles. STATES OF widely spaced. OFAMERICA reads as one word. 50 C high. Tall 5.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 19-S (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z3-CZ

Obverse:	Large, low date. Star 7 half-way between the LIBERTY headband and the cap. Stars on the right are smaller than those found on 1831 Z2-CY.
Reverse:	SB below center of E1. SE below gap between A2 and M. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. I1 low. IT close. Tall, narrow 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1831
Z4-P

Obverse:	Evenly spaced, unevenly oriented, thin, medium sized date. 18 low. 31 high. Large 3. Date (logo) punch used as on 1831 20/T. Small stars. Stars 6 and 11 repunched.
Reverse:	SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. T2 repunched left. Missing top crossbar of I2. Top arrow shaft very thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 25	German silver; Pewter	LRE.119-AAU	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010). Indented die scratch through A1, R in PLURIBUS, chopping off the tip of the eagle's beak, & angling across the horizontal shield lines.

1831
Z21-P

Obverse: 3 is large and repunched prominently at the top knob. First 1 is different than the second 1. Tops of numerals are all at the same level. All stars are sharply defined.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. T2 repunched left. Missing top crossbar of I2. Top arrow shaft very thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Pewter	LRE.122-AAW	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: The example shown exhibits extensive tin pest.

1831
Z5-AI

Obverse: Evenly spaced, level, medium sized date. 3 tilts to the right. Stars 8, 9 and 10 have pointed ends while all the other stars have either rounded or square ends.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E. SE below left foot of M. I in PLURIBUS below left foot and upright of T3. Somewhat thin lettering in legend. Top arrows is small and not symmetrical.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Lettered (?)	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 18-R. First known photo taken in 2021.

1831
Z6-CK

Obverse: Evenly spaced, unevenly oriented, thin, medium sized date. 18 low. 31 high. Large 3. Date (logo) punch used as on 1831 1/A. Large, thin, unevenly spaced stars.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left edge of M. At least nine gule stripes are in the shield which is excessive. Arrows are equally spaced and relatively wide at the top.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	LRE.119-AAU	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 20-T (cccbhcc.com), and first documented in 2019.

1831
Z7-CK

Obverse: Unevenly spaced, unevenly oriented, somewhat thin, medium sized date. First 1 is above the 8. 3 rotated right. Large, thin, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 8 and 9 are close.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left edge of M. At least nine gule stripes are in the shield which is excessive. Arrows are equally spaced and relatively wide at the top.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	LRE.119-AAU	*Ski Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Die bounce evident resulting in partial doubling of details. First documented in 2020.

1831
Z8-Z

Obverse:	Small, wide date. Second 1 far from 183 and rotated counterclockwise. Medium, thin, pointed stars. Stars on right more widely spaced than on left. Star 13 appears repunched.
Reverse:	SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. UN wide. TES high. Blunt serifs on S1 and S2. RI nearly touch at base. CA widely spaced. Partially re-engraved arrow base on top arrow.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.133-ABH	*San Serif S* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 10-J (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z16-DG

Obverse:	Small, wide, evenly spaced date. 1s thick. 83 thin. Small, thin stars. Stars 5, 6, 7 widely space. Stars 8 and 9 close.
Reverse:	SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right base of A2. Small, unevenly spaced letters in legend. NIT widely spaced. 50 C small. Period high next to C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE.134-ABI	*San Serif S* Family	Prime. ~15° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z9-AO

Obverse: Tall, low date. Top of 8 above 1-31. Large, thin, unevenly spaced, pointed stars. Stars close to denticles.

Reverse: SB below upright of E1. SE below right base of A2. A1 and A2 high. 50 and C. both lean right. Top arrow shaft is very long and thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.107-AAG	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z9-AP

Obverse: Tall, low date. Top of 8 above 1-31. Large, thin, unevenly spaced, pointed stars. Stars close to denticles.

Reverse: SB below center of D. SE below left foot of right base of M. Top serifs of U connected. Vertical die line right of T2. Tall letters in motto. A3 and arrows distant. Eagle very low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Lettered (?)	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-U (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z10-DA

Obverse: Tall, evenly spaced, low date. 8 and second 1 high. Large, pointed, unevenly oriented stars. Star 13 far from portrait. Portrait oriented far left of center.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left upright of M. Medium sized letters in legend. T1 high. A3 filled. 50 slopes right. Period oriented at top of C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.105-AAG	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-H (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z11-DB

Obverse: Tall, thin date. Oval-shaped bottom half of 8. Tall 3. Medium sized, thin, pointed, unevenly spaced stars.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left foot of M. Large, crude, unevenly shaped and sized lettering in legend. 50 C low, touching or nearly touching denticles. Die line from top arrow to rim.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 15	German silver	LRE.124-AAY; LRE.127-ABB; Plain	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010). The obverse die survives and is square in shape (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z12-DC

Obverse: Tall, unevenly spaced date. Wide base and thick upright on 1s. 8 thin and slightly low. Small, thin, widely spaced stars. Liberty has no forehead hair curl. Raised lumps in left field and below star 13.

Reverse: SB below left edge of E1. SE below right foot of left upright of A2. Small, unevenly oriented letters in legend. N, S1, A1, S2, A2, and M repunched. TES small, and far from scroll. IC close. CA wide. 50 C large. 5 high, tilted left. Thin arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Plain	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z13-DD

Obverse: Tall, thin, low date, oriented left of center. Oval-shaped bottom half of 8. Medium sized, thin, pointed, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 1 and 9 repunched.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below center of M. Large, crude, thin, closely spaced letters in legend. Base of ME nearly touch. 50 C large and low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.125-AAZ	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. 345-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-Q (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z14-DE

Obverse: Medium sized, unevenly oriented date. Date oriented left of center. First 1 almost touches portrait. 8 high. Small, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 11, 12, 13 wide. Portrait left of center.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below right of center of M. Small, unevenly oriented letters in legend. 50 C small. Short arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver; Copper/brass	LE.100-AAA	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010). One example is known double-struck on the obverse.

1831
Z15-DF

Obverse: Medium sized, wide date. High 1s. Small, unevenly spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 9, 10 and 12, 13 wide.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left upright of M. Small letters in legend. S1 and S2 small. A3 close to top arrowhead. 50 C wide, evenly spaced. 5 slightly high.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 14-N (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z15-IE

Obverse: Medium sized, wide date. High 1s. Small, unevenly spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 9, 10 and 12, 13 wide.

Reverse: SB left edge of D. SE below right foot of left upright of M. Branch stem extends to the left-half of the C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Appears to be LRE.100-AAA	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2023 by Bradley Karoleff (not the example shown).

1831
Z17-DH

Obverse: Tall date. Thin 1s. 83 close. Large knobs on 3. Shelf doubling on 83. Small, widely spaced stars which exhibit shelf doubling.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. U repunched. 50 C repunched. Repunching may or may not be the result of shelf doubling.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Copper	LRE.158-ACG; Plain	Singleton	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev.** die break at bottom of motto from UNITED STATES OF AM. ~230° degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (2010). One example is known double struck off-center.

1831
Z18-DI

Obverse:	Tall, closely spaced date. 83 very close. Small stars. Star 7 high. Stars 11 and 12 widely spaced. Shelf doubling may be evident on some stars. Portrait oriented left of center.
Reverse:	SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below far left edge of M. Overall devices are excellent, and may indicate a transfer die reverse.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver; Billon	LRE.159-ACH	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 11-K (Davignon 2010).

1831
Z19-DJ

Obverse:	Medium, evenly spaced date oriented right of center. 83 thin. Medium sized, non-symmetrical, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 1, 2, 3, and 9, 10 are close. Poor portrait. Liberty has a long chest.
Reverse:	SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Small letters in legend. 50 C high. 5 above 0. Shield and shield lines lean right.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE.160-ACI	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 12-L and 1834 19-S (Davignon 2010). One example is known double struck. The same '5' punch was also used on the *1830 Counterfeiter* family, but so far no other linkage between this variety and that family has been made.

1831
Z20-HZ

Obverse: 18 and 31 close, and 83 wide. 3 appears repunched north. Date numerals not positioned level. Flat-tipped stars. Stars 1 to 7 mostly widely spaced, and stars 8 to 13 very closely spaced.

Reverse: SB upright of E1. SE left base of A2. Small and medium sized letters used. Lettering is not positioned level with each other. A2 repunched south. A3 filled. 50c low and offset left. Poorly executed shield impression.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded Edge	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2022.

1831
Z22-IH

Obverse: Base of 3 below 8 and 1 in date. Normal-sized, evenly spaced stars. Star 7 at top of hair curl. Star 13 nearly touches lower hair curl. Stars 8 through 13 appear far from denticles.

Reverse: SB left edge of D. SE between AM. I in PLURIBUS centered under T3. 5 leans slightly left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Undocumented	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: ANS 0000.999.55474.

1832 Z1-R

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Medium to large, evenly spaced stars. Portrait has rounded nose. Compare device-dentil alignments to differentiate from other similar obverse dies.

Reverse: SB below left upright of E1. SE below center of M. Words in legend close together. I in PLURIBUS below right base of A1. Bottom arrow short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.137-ABL	*Stumpy Lower Arrow* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 23-X (cccbhcc.com).

1832 Z1-DW

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Medium to large, evenly spaced stars. Portrait has rounded nose. Compare device-dentil alignments to differentiate from other similar obverse dies.

Reverse: SB under right edge of E. SE under left edge of M. I in PLURIBUS left side of T3. AMERICA almost touches the denticles. Large letters reverse.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.137-ABL	*Stumpy Lower Arrow* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1832
Z2-AO

Obverse: Large, tall date. 32 close. Large, unevenly spaced stars nearly touching denticles. Stars 4 and 5 very close.

Reverse: SB below upright of E1. SE below right base of A2. A1 and A2 high. 50 and C. both lean right. Top arrow shaft is very long and thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded Edge (Also reported as LE. 107-AAG)	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-H (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z3-CQ

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced, somewhat low date. Medium to large evenly spaced stars. Star 7 points between hair curl and headband.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Inside of A2 and A3 filled. A2, M, C, A3 repunched.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.130-ABE	*Mint Mimicked* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 25-Z (cccbhcc.com).

1832
Z4-DK

Obverse: Large, widely spaced, low date. Small, raised dot at the top-left side of the 3. Denticle offset left below center of 1. Star 13 points to the top of the denticle. Medium sized, evenly spaced stars. Star 7 points to center of headband. All details like the genuine coin possibly suggesting a transfer die.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left upright of M. 50 C. repunched north. Die lines in front of denticles above D, S2, OF, and in front of the arrows. Top point of A3 aligns with top of denticle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
More than 25	German silver	LRE.130-ABE	*Mint Mimicked* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-B (1996), and Davignon 2-B and 3-B (2010). One example is known double struck on the obverse.

1832
Z5-DL

Obverse: Large date. 83 close. 2 high. Large, evenly spaced stars. Stars 1 to 7 close to denticles, while stars 8 to 13 further away. Star 7 far from Liberty's portrait. Star 13 close to touching lower hair curls.

Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. As smaller than other letters. S in PLURIBUS right of S2. Small 0 in 50 C. Middle arrow wider than top and bottom arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	LE-Unattributable	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1832
Z6-DM

Obverse: Wide date. 183 small. 2 large. Small stars. Stars 1, 2, 3, 4 closely spaced. Portrait high.
Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left edge of M. Small, unevenly spaced letters in legend. UNITEDSTATES close. Scroll high. 0 repunched horizontally in 50 C. Long, narrow neck on eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z7-DN

Obverse: Very wide date. 183 small. 2 large, close to denticles. Small stars. Stars closely spaced on left. Stars 12 and 13 wide. Star 13 far from portrait.
Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below right foot of left base of M. Small letters in legend. OF widely spaced. 50 and C low and widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. die crack on N. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z8-DO

Obverse: Very wide date. 183 small. 2 large. Small stars. Stars on left closely spaced. Stars 11, 12, 13 widely spaced. Star 13 distant from hair curl. Portrait oriented high and left.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below gap between A2 and M (closer to A2). Small, evenly spaced letters in legend.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 458 (1845) and Davignon 12-L (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z9-DP

Obverse: Very wide date. 183 small. 2 large and high. Small, evenly spaced stars. Star 13 under hair curl.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below gap between A2 and M. 50 C high. 50 and C widely spaced. Bottom arrow long and narrow, overlapping the middle arrow shaft.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Plain	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 22-W (cccbhcc.com).

1832
Z12-DS

Obverse: Denticle centered below 1 in date. Star 13 points between denticles.

Reverse: SB left side of D. SE left upright of M. Die line in front of denticles starting around the arrows, 50 C., leaves, and UNITED; this feature may encircle the entirety of the reverse. No repunched 50 C. Top point of A1 aligns with left half of denticle. Top point of A3 aligns between denticles.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 25	CuZnAg	LRE.162-ACK	*Pretty Perfect* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 1996); not listed in Davignon 2010. This variety does not share the same reverse as Davignon 3-B.

1832
Z14-DU

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Compare device-dentil alignments to differentiate from other similar obverse dies. Die weakness along rim and tops of stars 1-3.

Reverse: SB under right edge of E. SE under left edge of M. I in PLURIBUS almost centered under T3. Large letters reverse. Two small raised dots at inside and outside bottom of C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.171-ADB	*Bumpy Nose* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-R (Davignon 2010). Superb die workmanship which does not match a documented Overton variety.

1832
Z10-DQ

Obverse:	Large, low, evenly spaced date. Medium sized, thin, widely spaced stars. Star 4 points to top of denticles.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below right upright of A2.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.165-ACN	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 20-U (cccbhcc.com). High-quality die work. Reverse die is similar to 1836 O-108.

1832
Z11-DR

Obverse:	Large, evenly spaced date. Compare device-dentil alignments to differentiate from other similar obverse dies.
Reverse:	SB between E and D. SE under left edge of M. Small letters reverse style of 1834-6; reverse resembles 1834 O-104, O-106, or 1836 O-102/3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LRE.163-ACL	Singleton	Prime. Normal, 45– and 60-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C. Superb die workmanship which does not match a documented Overton variety.

1832
Z13-DT

Obverse: Large, centered, evenly spaced date. Medium, evenly spaced stars. Stars 1 to 4, 9, and 11 to 13 all point between, or at at least are not centered over denticles.

Reverse: SB left edge of D. SE left of left upright of M. A1 and A2 filled. I in PLURIBUS slightly right of center of T2.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Plain	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 16-Q (Davignon 2010). Elongated planchet. Example shown is double struck, thus limiting some diagnostic details.

1832
Z15-DV

Obverse: Date is normal size and evenly spaced. Stars are slightly thin, but evenly spaced. Portrait is very accurate. Star 4 points between denticles.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left edge of M. A3 mostly filled.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.166-ACO; LRE.167-ACP	Singleton	Prime. Normal and 30-45^0 CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 29-DD (cccbhcc.com). High-quality die work.

1832
Z16-ED

Obverse:	Large, widely spaced date. Medium, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 10 and 11 almost touch.
Reverse:	SB right edge of E. SE right of center of M. Thick scroll, thin lettering inside. Very large top arrow; bottom two arrows are also large. Arrows extend off the planchet.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	(unknown)	(unknown)	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Photos have been artificially recolored. Previously recorded as Davignon 28-CC (cccbhcc.com).

1832
Z17-DX

Obverse:	Medium sized, evenly spaced date. Thin 1. Bottom of curl 2 looks like a birds beak. Medium, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse:	SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below left upright of M. Small, evenly spaced letters in legend. 50 C high.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE-Unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 15-P (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z18-DY

Obverse: Low, medium sized, uneven date. 1 upright. 832 lean left. Numbers repunched. Medium, thin, pointed, unevenly oriented stars. Star 9 boldly repunched. Other stars lightly repunched.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Small, evenly spaced letters in legend. Raised die line around bottom curve of coin, in front of denticles. Die break at lower leaves.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
More than 20	German silver	LE.161-ACJ	Singleton	Prime. 30° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z19-DZ

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Medium, evenly spaced stars. Star 3 slightly repunched.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below left foot of M. Medium-large letters, well spaced in legend. Top and bottom arrow show slight repunching.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 100 and 250	German silver; Copper	LRE.164-ACM	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 460 (1845), Taxay 17 (1963), and Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z20-EA

Obverse: Medium sized, evenly spaced date positioned far right. 1 slightly high. Large, non-symmetrical stars. Star 7 faint. Ugly portrait (Davignon 2010). Projecting mouth and chin.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Crude, hand-engraved letters in legend. Small, ugly eagle with short, scrunched neck.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE-Unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z21-EB

Obverse: Large, low, evenly spaced date. Short 1. Large, pointed stars close to denticles. Star 13 far from portrait. Tall, narrow portrait.

Reverse: SB below left edge of E1. SE below right edge of A2. ED joined at base. Scroll appears slightly repunched north. 50 C large and low. The bottom arrow is reengraved. Long, thin leaves.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE-Unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 18 (Taxay 1963) and Davignon 11-K (Davignon 2010).

1832
Z22-EC

Obverse: Medium sized, evenly spaced date. 1 appears high. Flat base 2 with circular knob. Medium sized, evenly spaced stars. Stars 7 and 8 high on Liberty's cap. Goofy looking portrait.

Reverse: SB below right half of E1. SE below right base of A2. 50 low, C high.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	(unknown)	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 27-BB (cccbhcc.com). The variety description will be updated if and when a less worn and damaged example is identified).

1833 Z1-F

Obverse: Large, tall, evenly spaced date. 8 high. First 3 low. Small, wide but unevenly spaced stars. Stars 1, 2, 3 close.

Reverse: SB between IT. SE under left base of A2. UNITEDSTATES is one word. Evenly spaced denomination. Shield wide at base. Long, thin arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.108-AAJ	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 461 (1845) and Davignon 9-I (Davignon 2010). One example is known double struck.

1833 Z2-DL

Obverse: Large, tall, closely spaced date oriented right of center. 18 slightly distant. Small, evenly spaced stars. 8 x 6 star orientation.

Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. As smaller than other letters. S in PLURIBUS right of S2. Small 0 in 50 C. Middle arrow wider than top and bottom arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal and 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 32-GG (Davignon 2010).

1833 Z3-EE

Obverse: Large, tall date. Last 3 high. Large, non-symmetrical stars. Many stars nearly touch denticles. For this family, this star punch is unique to this variety.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. Thin, evenly spaced letters in legend. This reverse die was likely reengraved from a transfer die, especially in UNITED.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon	LRE.100r-AAAr	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal and 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1833 Z3-FW

Obverse: Large, tall date. Last 3 high. Large, non-symmetrical stars. Many stars nearly touch denticles. For this family, this star punch is unique to this variety.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Large, thin letters in legend. ES low. F high. A3 high. 50 C low. Thin arrow shafts.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1833
Z4-EF

Obverse:	Large, tall date oriented slightly right of center. 1 low. Second 3 nearly touches lower hair curl. Small, unevenly spaced stars.
Reverse:	SB below center of T1. SE below right base of A2. Large letters in legend. T1 high. ED appear oversized.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Unclear	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 23-W (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z5-EG

Obverse:	Large, low evenly spaced date. Small, wide and evenly spaced stars close to denticles.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below right edge of A2. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. Small 0 in 50 C. A3 nearly touches arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 28-CC (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z6-EH

Obverse: Large, wide, evenly spaced date. Medium sized, evenly spaced stars. Star 9 repunched. Star 13 nearly touches portrait.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. STATE OF widely spaced. Small 0 in 50 C. Top arrow is small and nearly touches A3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Lettered (?)	*Clinton Head* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. die crack right of S2.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 30-EE (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z7-Z

Obverse: Tall, evenly spaced date which leans left. 1 high. 1, 8 and second 3 repunched. Large stars. Stars 5 and 12 repunched.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. UN wide. TES high. Blunt serifs on S1 and S2. RI nearly touch at base. CA widely spaced. Partially re-engraved arrow base on top arrow.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 25	German silver	LE.134-ABI	*San Serif S* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 22 (Taxay 1963), Davignon 8-H (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z8-CP

Obverse: Large, wide, evenly spaced date. 1 smaller than 833. Medium sized, slightly elongated, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 6, 7 and 11, 12, 13 widely spaced.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below right upright of M. Small letters in legend. AM and CA widely spaced. Inside top of R filled.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 20 and 30	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 20-T (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z9-DM

Obverse: Large, widely spaced date. 1 is short. Second 3 high. Medium sized, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 1 and 2 close. Stars 12 and 13 widely spaced.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left edge of M. Small, unevenly spaced letters in legend. UNITEDSTATES close. Scroll high. 0 repunched horizontally in 50 C. Long, narrow neck on eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 20	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 463 (1845) and Davignon 11-K (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z10-EI

Obverse:	Medium sized, wide date. 1 punched in backwards. Prominent loops on 3s. 18 wide. 833 evenly spaced. Large, thin, wide but unevenly spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Star 7 repunched.
Reverse:	SB below __??__. SE below gap between A2 and M. Medium, evenly spaced letters in legend.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Unclear	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 19-BB (Davignon 2010). New style of date punch not seen on any other obverse die from this family.

1833
Z10-EJ

Obverse:	Medium sized, wide date. 1 punched in backwards. Prominent loops on 3s. 18 wide. 833 evenly spaced. Large, thin, wide but unevenly spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Star 7 repunched.
Reverse:	SB below right edge of E1. SE below right upright of M. Medium, evenly spaced letters in legend. AT rotated right. ED and CA wide. AM touch at base. 50 C low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon	LE.102-AAE	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 19-S (Davignon 2010). New style of date punch not seen on any other obverse die from this family.

1833
Z11-EK

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date oriented left of center. 1 high. Small, closely spaced stars. Stars on left close to denticles. Star 13 far from portrait.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left upright of M. Small letters in legend. UNITED-STATES reads as one word. STATES OF widely spaced. Bottom arrow is short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 29-DD (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z12-EL

Obverse: Large, tall date oriented left of center. 1 short. 33 close. Small, closely spaced stars. Star 13 far from portrait.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below center of M. Small letters. 50 and C widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 36-JJ (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z13-EM

Obverse: Large, widely spaced date rotated upwards and slanting to the right. Small, high 1. Small, closely spaced stars.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left upright of M. Small letters in legend. UNITED STATES closely spaced. Es and D large.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 42-OO (cccbhcc.com).

1833
Z14-DB

Obverse: Large, tall closely spaced date. 18 thin. Oval-shaped bottom half of 8. Large, thin, pointy stars. Star 5 repunched. Stars 1, 2, 3 closely space. Stars 10, 11, 12, 13 widely spaced.

Reverse: SB below right quarter of E1. SE below left foot of M. Large, crude, unevenly shaped and sized lettering in legend. 50 C low, touching or nearly touching denticles. Die line from top arrow to rim.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE.126-ABA	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 16-P (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z15-EN

Obverse: Large, closely spaced date oriented left. Large, widely spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Portrait oriented left.

Reverse: SB below left edge of E1. SE below left upright of A2. Large, widely spaced letters in legend. STATES OF widely spaced. Large 50 C. Long arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-Unattributable	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 21-U (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z39-HX

Obverse: 8 tilts right and both 3s tilt left. First 3 repunched left. 12 stars. Star 6 high on cap.

Reverse: SB right side of E1. Se right side of A2. Small letters. A3 wide at base. RICA close. Top arrow missing left side of arrow-point. Leaves extend into denticles. Small, close denomination and low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Plain	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1833
Z16-EO

Obverse:	Small, low, thin, evenly spaced date. Small, evenly spaced stars. Overall appearance is excellent.
Reverse:	SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right edge of A2. Medium sized, evenly spaced, thin letters in legend. U, S1 and S2 repunched. 50 C thin and centered.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
More than 250	German silver	LRE.132-ABG	*Too Legit To Quit* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 20 (Taxay 1963), Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010). One example is known double struck.

1833
Z17-EQ

Obverse:	Large, tall, crude date. Second 3 repunched left. Large, thin, pointed stars. Stars on right more closely spaced than stars on right; stars 8 and 9 wide.
Reverse:	SB below center of E1. SE below left upright of M. Large, crude letters in legend. 50 C low. 50 and C widely spaced. Small horizontal line in field above top arrow shaft and right wing.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
More than 100	German silver	PE; LE.PE-AAG; LE.107-AAG; LRE.105-AAG; LRE.105-AAF	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal and 330-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 466 (1845), and Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010). One example counterstamped DOCTER/A. PERRET.

1833
Z18-ER

Obverse: Large, tall date. 1 rotated right. 18 close. Last 3 nearly touches portrait. Large, thin stars. Star 1 re-punched. Stars 9, 10, 11 close. Stars 8 and 13 nearly touch portrait. Large portrait.

Reverse: SB below upright of E1. SE below left foot of left upright of M. Large letters in legend. T2 below A1. Die defect at top of scroll above NU. Eagle low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.105-AAG	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 21 (Taxay 1963) and Davignon 17-Q (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z19-ES

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. 1 high. Flat-top 3s. Small, widely spaced stars. Die 'rust' at stars 1 and 8, and at bottom hair curl.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left foot of left upright of M. Small, widely spaced letters in legend. Die 'rust' in right field, and possibly in shield. 50 C small and low. 50 and C widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon; German silver	LE.107-AAG; LE.107.AAH	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Medal turn.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 19 (Taxay 1963), Davignon 18-R (Davignon 2010).

1833 Z20-ET

Obverse:	Small, widely spaced, scrunched looking date. 3s have proportionally large knobs. Small, evenly spaced stars. Stars on right more widely spaced than stars on left. Date oriented right on Liberty.
Reverse:	SB below right quarter of E1. SE below center of A1. Large letters in legend. Dots as feathers above shield. Left-most leaves overlap left wing. Bottom arrow offset with arrow shaft.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE.149-ABX; Plain	*Dotted Feathers* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 464 (1845) and Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1833 Z21-ET

Obverse:	Short, wide date. 18 close. Small, widely spaced stars. Date oriented left on Liberty.
Reverse:	SB below right quarter of E1. SE below center of A1. Large letters in legend. Dots as feathers above shield. Left-most leaves overlap left wing. Bottom arrow offset with arrow shaft.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.149-ABX	*Dotted Feathers* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1833
Z21-EU

Obverse:	Short, wide date. 18 close. Small, widely spaced stars. Date oriented left on Liberty.
Reverse:	SB below right edge of E1. SE below left foot of M. Large, thick letters in legend. Words in legend closely spaced. Period centered on C in 50 C. Large arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.149-ABX	*Dotted Feathers* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 39-MM (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z22-EV

Obverse:	Small, evenly spaced, high date. 1 and second 3 high. Small, evenly spaced, mostly symmetrical stars.
Reverse:	SB below center of E1. SE below left upright of M. Medium sized, crude, evenly spaced letters in legend. Backwards S in PLURIBUS. 50 C high. Very short arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE-Unattributable	*Long Talon* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z23-EW

Obverse: Small, unevenly spaced date. 183 wide. 33 close. Medium sized, symmetrical stars. Star 1 overlaps denticle.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left foot of M. Medium letters in legend. CA wide. Extra metal on top serif of C in AMERICA. Backwards S in PLURIBUS. Large, high C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LE-Unattributable	*Long Talon* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 15-O (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z24-EX

Obverse: Large, tall, closely spaced date. First 3 thinner than second 3. Small, elongated stars. Stars 5, 6, 7 and 9 repunched. Portrait low and left. Liberty has puckered lips.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right foot of left upright of M. Small letters in legend. Large Ts. Us backward in motto. 50 C small and low. Raised metal blob at bottom of top arrow.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.176-ACY	*Puckered Lips* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 14-N (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z25-EY

Obverse: Large, tall date. Second 3 is small and thicker than the first. Small, slightly elongated stars. Star 6 repunched. Stars 11 and 12 widely spaced.

Reverse: SB below upright of E1. SE below left upright of M. Small, high, evenly spaced letters in legend. Scroll low. 50 C high.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE-Unattributable	*Puckered Lips* Family	Prime.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 22-V (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z26-EZ

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Tall, thin 1. First 3 has thin ends pointing inward. Second 3 has knobs. Medium sized, pointed stars. Stars on right distant from denticles.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below left edge of M. Medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. Upper-right serif of T2 has a die line down to the left side of A1. Left foot of R above right edge of E3. 50 C tall.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.135-ABJ	*Lumpy* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Obv.** cracked die. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 24-X (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z27-EZ

Obverse: Large, widely spaced date. Top of 8 smushed. First 3 has thin ends pointing inward. Second 3 has knobs. 6x6 star configuration. Medium sized, unevenly oriented, non-symmetrical stars.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below left edge of M. Medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. Upper-right serif of T2 has a die line down to the left side of A1. Left foot of R above right edge of E3. 50 C tall.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.135-ABJ	*Lumpy* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 33-X and 41-X (Davignon 2010). Lettered edge. One example is known double struck on the obverse (shown).

1833
Z28-FA

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Tall, thin 1. First 3 has normal upper knob ends. Medium sized, pointed stars. Stars on right relatively close to denticles.

Reverse: SB at left edge of D. SE between A and M. E3 and R level at base.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.139-ABN	*Lumpy* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 35-II (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z29-FB

Obverse: Large, tall date positioned close to portrait. Last 3 high. Line connects knobs within 3s. Large, closely spaced stars. Stars 7, 8, and 13 nearly touch portrait.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below right foot of left upright of M. Large letters in legend. Top of 5 leans left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.103-AAD	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 38-LL (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z29-FC

Obverse: Large, tall date positioned close to portrait. Last 3 high. Line connects knobs within 3s. Large, closely spaced stars. Stars 7, 8, and 13 nearly touch portrait.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below right of center of M. Large letters in legend. Top serif of D missing. S2 high. 50 and C wide. Top of 5 leans left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Lettered (?)	*Pointed Wing* Family	**a)** Prime. Normal die rotation. **b)** **Rev.** Either a lamination in the fields above the eagle, or the die was deteriorating.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 38-RR (cccbhcc.com).

1833
Z30-FD

Obverse:	Date is low and evenly spaced. Small, well-formed, evenly spaced stars. Overall very accurate.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below left upright of M. A2 (and possibly A3) mostly filled. Overall very accurate.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.130-ABE	*Mint Mimicked* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 44-QQ (cccbhcc.com).

1833
Z40-IF

Obverse:	Tall, relatively thin 1 in the date. Star 4 is notably repunched, while stars 10, 11 and 12 also appear repunched. Raised metal in the fields in front of Liberty's headband.
Reverse:	SB between ED. SE left upright of M. C in AMERICA notably weak. Raised metal around arrowheads, leaves, berries and parts of the eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	AgCuZn	LRE-Unattributable	*Pretty Perfect* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First reported in April 2023.

1833
Z31-FE

Obverse: Large, tall date. 183 evenly spaced. 33 slightly widely spaced. 8 large, and slightly low. Last 3 punched over a 0. Medium size, well formed, evenly spaced stars.

Reverse: SB below left edge of E1. SE below gap between A2 and M. Well formed, medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. Thin tongue on eagle. Thin arrow shafts.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Billon; Brass	LRE.174-ACX	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z32-FF

Obverse: Large, tall, evenly spaced date close to portrait. Small, widely spaced stars. Star 7 high on cap. Star 13 close to date.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left foot of right upright of A2. Medium, unevenly aligned letters in legend. D and F tilted right. Large letters in motto of scroll. Large C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
More than 100	German silver	LRE.169-ACR	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 23 (Taxay 1963), Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010). This variety has been described as belonging to the *Clinton Head* family but there is so far no evidence to support this relationship.

1833
Z33-FG

Obverse: Tall, evenly spaced, very low date. 1 and 8 tall and thin. Flat top 3s. Small, wide and unevenly spaced, stars. Star 1 nearly touches portrait. Stars 8 and 9, and 11 and 2 widely spaced.

Reverse: SB below right side of D. SE below left foot of E3. Small letters in legend. A3 far from arrows. UNIM instead of UNUM. 50 C small. Small, scrawny eagle. Wide, strongly curving bottom shield.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	LRE.175-ACY	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 462 (1845) and Davignon 10-J (Davignon 2010). Several seen with surface porosity.

1833
Z34-FH

Obverse: Medium sized, evenly spaced date. 18 high. 33 slopes left. Date is far from denticles. Medium, evenly spaced stars.

Reverse: SB left edge of D. SE left edge of M. Medium letters. 50 C. high.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.100-AAA	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 12-L (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z35-FI

Obverse: Star 7 rotated CW and points to headband curl intersection. Star 13 mid high on curl. 8 in date slightly high and tipped left. Resembles O-111 and O-104 but top serif of 1 in date is wrong shape.

Reverse: SB left edge of D. SE under edge of left upright of M. I in motto under left side of upright of T2. Large letters like those of 1820's but form of the 5 in 50C is inconsistent with these earlier dies. 5 in 50C half way under talon. Top of 5 is straight. 0 in 50C is tilted left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Unclear	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-M (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z36-FJ

Obverse: Large, unevenly spaced date. 8 low. Medium, evenly spaced stars. Stars on right nearly touch denticles. Star 7 nearly touches cap. Stars 9 and 10 dramatically repunched; all other stars appear to show light repunching.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below left upright of M. Small, evenly spaced letters in legend. Scroll nearly touches D. 5 leans left in 50 C. Bottom arrow short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	Plain	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 25-Y (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z37-FK

Obverse:	Large, tall, closely spaced date. Small, widely spaced stars.
Reverse:	SB below right foot of T1. SE below left upright of M. Medium sized, well spaced letters in legend. Dot below E3. A3 far from arrows. 50 C small. Long, thin, closely spaced arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	LE-Unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 40-NN (Davignon 2010).

1833
Z38-FL

Obverse:	Large, unevenly aligned date. Last 3 high. Large, unevenly spaced stars. No tuft of hair on forehead. Large headband.
Reverse:	SB below upright of E1. SE below center of M. Small letters in legend. A3 far from arrowheads. 50 C small. Leaves far from left wing.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Plain	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 43-PP (cccbhcc.com). One example known double struck.

1834
Z1-CZ

Obverse: Large, tall, widely spaced date. Tall, narrow, high 4. Large, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below gap between A2 and M. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. I1 low. IT close. Tall, narrow 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 21-U (cccbhcc.com). One example is known double struck off-center.

1834
Z2-DL

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date oriented right of center. Wide 4. Medium sized, evenly spaced stars. Stars on right close to portrait.
Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. As smaller than other letters. S in PLURIBUS right of S2. Small 0 in 50 C. Middle arrow wider than top and bottom arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. crack from leaves left to U, up thru left field to E1. Crack from TA to top of scroll ending between S O, along scroll ending right of F, to SE down right wing to RI. ~15° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 12-L (Davignon 2010).

1834
Z3-EG

Obverse: Large, low, evenly spaced date. Small, wide, evenly spaced stars. Star 8 is relatively elongated. Star 11 further inward into the fields than adjacent stars.

Reverse: SB left edge of D. SE at right foot of A2. A3 nearly touches top arrow. Tall 5, short 0 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 22-V (cccbhcc.com).

1834
Z4-FM

Obverse: Large, wide, low, evenly spaced date. Narrow 4. Medium, widely spaced stars. Stars 1-33 close.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below right foot of A2. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. E2 above T3. A3 nearly touches arrow. 50 C low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-M (Davignon 2010).

1834
Z5-FN

Obverse:	Large, tall, evenly spaced date. Tall, narrow 4. Small, widely spaced stars.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below left upright of M. Medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. Letters in STATES very close. Top serif of D missing. I2 high.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.110-AAL	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 15-O (Davignon 2010).

1834
Z6-FO

Obverse:	Medium sized, unevenly spaced date. 18 wide. 18-4 thin. 3 thick. Tall, narrow, small 4. Small stars. Stars on right widely spaced. Star 8 nearly touches cap.
Reverse:	SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below left upright of M. Large letters in legend. S2 high. STATES OF AMERICA widely spaced. Tall 5 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.110-AAL	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-Q (Davignon 2010).

1834
Z7-FP

Obverse:	Large, evenly spaced date. Right side of 3 under hair curls. Medium-small, evenly spaced stars on the right; left stars obscured by wear. Star 8 located lower on the cap than 1834 Z1-CZ.
Reverse:	SB below upright of D. SE below right foot of A2. Large letters in legend. Letters in UNITED widely spaced. Serifs of AM connected at base. A 3 close to top arrow. 0 short in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Lettered (?)	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1834
Z14-IK

Obverse:	183 wide and 34 close. Star 13 points behind hair curl.
Reverse:	SB upright of D. SE between AM (estimate). Base of A3 at first quarter of arrowhead. S in PLURIBUS aligned with right side edge of S2. Branch ends over left edge of C in 50 C. Period after 50 C. higher on lower curve of C than on reverse FP.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. 315-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: First documented in December 2024. Inverted edge lettering on the example shown.

1834
Z8-EN

Obverse: Large, low, crude date. Digits lean right. 4 slightly high. Large, widely spaced stars with rounded tips Stars close to denticles. Star 7 nearly touches cap. Star 13 far from cap.

Reverse: SB below left edge of E1. SE below left upright of A2. Large, widely spaced letters in legend. STATES OF widely spaced. Large 50 C. Long arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.123-AAX	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1834
Z8-FQ

Obverse: Large, low, crude date. Digits lean right. 4 slightly high. Large, widely spaced stars with rounded tips Stars close to denticles. Star 7 nearly touches cap. Star 13 far from cap.

Reverse: UNITEDSTATES and OFAMERICA close. E1, S1 and A3 repunched. 50 C large. 0 in 50 C re-punched.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Lettered (?)	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1834
Z8-HY

Obverse: Large, low, crude date. Digits lean right. 4 slightly high. Large, widely spaced stars with rounded tips Stars close to denticles. Star 7 nearly touches cap. Star 13 far from cap.

Reverse: SB between D and S. SE left edge of E3. Small letters. Eagle punch low. A3 far from top arrowhead. 50 and C wide and low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Plain	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1834
Z9-EZ

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. Medium sized, evenly spaced stars. Die lumps between 83.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below left edge of M. Medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. Upper-right serif of T2 has a die line down to the left side of A1. Left foot of R above right edge of E3. 50 C tall.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.135-ABJ	*Lumpy* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Obv**. die break from star 7 to forehead hair curl. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010). Most known very flatly struck showing few fine details.

1834
Z10-FR

Obverse: Large, tall, thin, evenly spaced date. Small stars. Three-star gang punches likely used for stars 1 to 3, 4 to 6, and 10 to 12.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Small, evenly spaced letters in legend. 50 C small.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 25 and 50	German silver; Billon; Copper	LE.103-AAD	*Puckered Lips* Family	Prime. 30-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A and 20-T (Davignon 2010). One example known double struck.

1834
Z11-FS

Obverse: Date is high and leaning slightly left. Small, evenly spaced stars. Overall, very accurate.

Reverse: SB below space between ED. SE below left edge of M. 50 C high. Small, second period above main period and just left of lower arrowhead. Overall, very accurate.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver	LRE.170-ACS; LRE.171-ACT	*Bumpy Nose* Family	Prime. Normal and 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1834
Z12-FT

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. Die lump above 8. Large, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below gap between A2 and M. Small letters in legend. 50 C small and tall.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.174-ACW	*Provisional* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 18-R (Davignon 2010).

1834
Z13-GA

Obverse: (High-quality die workmanship. However, not enough details are visible to provide an adequate description at this time. However it does not match any other documented hand-made die.)
Reverse: SB under left edge of D. SE under left upright of M. Die line along left slope of A1. L in PLURIBUS wide. I in PLURIBUS centered under T3. High serifs on S's. Weak or missing bottom curve of O in OF.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Copper	Plain	Singleton	Prime.

Comments: Example shown is a flip-over double strike with quarter-turn.

1835
Z1-DE

Obverse:	Large, widely spaced date. 1 low. 5 narrow. Small, wide but unevenly spaced stars. Star 5 and 6 wide.
Reverse:	SB below right quarter of E1. SE below right of center of M. Small, unevenly oriented letters in legend. 50 C small. Short arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.100-AAA	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 10-J (Davignon 2010). Two examples are known double struck on the obverse.

1835
Z2-FU

Obverse:	Large, unevenly aligned date. 1 and 5 small and high. Small, evenly spaced stars. Star 1 far from portrait. Stars 7 and 8 nearly touch cap.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below left upright of M. Large, unevenly set letters in legend. U low. Top serifs of TE joined. A2, E3 and R repunched. Serifs of ME joined at base. 50 C tall and low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 25	Billon	LE.101-AAB; LE.112-AAN	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z3-EG

Obverse: Large, tall, widely spaced date. 183 wide. 35 close. Small, widely spaced stars.
Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below right edge of A2. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. Small 0 in 50 C. A3 nearly touches arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Lettered (?)	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as 8-H (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z4-EH

Obverse: Large, tall, widely spaced date. Medium, widely spaced stars. 14 stars in a 7 x 7 orientation. Stars on left spaced wider than stars on right.
Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. STATE OF widely spaced. Small 0 in 50 C. Top arrow is small and nearly touches A3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver; Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010).

1835 Z4-ID

Obverse:	Large, tall, widely spaced date. Medium, widely spaced stars. 14 stars in a 7 x 7 orientation. Stars on left spaced wider than stars on right.
Reverse:	SB under upright of D. SE under left upright of M. U in PLURIBUS under S2 in STATES. Stem of branch ends along the right side of C in 50 C. STATES OF widely spaced.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2023.

1835 Z5-FO

Obverse:	Large, tall, evenly spaced date. 3 thick. Star 7 points to headband. Large, wide and evenly spaced stars. Star 8 far from cap.
Reverse:	SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below left upright of M. Large letters in legend. S2 high. STATES OF AMERICA widely spaced. Tall 5 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.101-AAB	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1835
Z6-FP

Obverse: Large, tall, evenly spaced date. 3 thick. 5 high. Large, wide and evenly spaced stars. Star 8 near cap.
Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below right foot of A2. Large letters in legend. Letters in UNITED widely spaced. Serifs of AM connected at base. A 3 close to top arrow. 0 short in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.102-AAC	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 12-L (Davignon 2010). One example is known double-struck on the obverse.

1835
Z7-FV

Obverse: Large, tall, widely spaced date. 1 high. 35 close. 5 tilts left. Small, widely spaced stars close to denticles. Stars 8 and 13 nearly touch portrait.
Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right edge of A2. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend close to denticles. A3 nearly touches arrowhead. 0 in 50 C short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 11-K (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z8-FW

Obverse: Large, tall, wide date oriented right of center. 35 below hair curl. Large, thin, pointed, widely spaced stars. Star 13 close to portrait.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Large, thin letters in legend. ES low. F high. A3 high. 50 C low. Thin arrow shafts.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-Q (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z9-FX

Obverse: Large, tall, low date. 1 tall and thin. 8 high. 5 small. Large, thick, pointed stars. Stars 1 and 2 close. LI missing in headband.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right edge of A2. Small, widely spaced letters in legend. S2 rotated right and faces down. RI very wide. 50 C small and low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LRE.105-AAH	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 24 (Taxay 1963), and Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z10-FX

Obverse: Small, low, widely spaced date. Flat top 3. 5 below lower left hair curl. Small, wide, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 3 and 4 relatively close.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right edge of A2. Small, widely spaced letters in legend. S2 rotated right and faces down. RI very wide. 50 C small and low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LRE.114-AAF	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z11-FY

Obverse: Small, low date oriented far left of center. Flat top 3. Small, widely spaced stars. Lower-left end of portrait ends at a sharp angle.

Reverse: SB below gap between D and S1. SE below right edge of M. Small letters in legend. Small As. TES high. AMERICA very widely spaced. 50 C small and low. Raised metal at base of AT and top of scroll below O in OF.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LRE.114-AAF	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as 16-P (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z12-FZ

Obverse: Small, low, widely spaced date. Flat top 3. Right half of 3 below lower left hair curl. Small, wide, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 3 and 4 relatively close.

Reverse: SB below center of D. SE below left foot of right upright of M. Small, unevenly spaced letters in legend. N high. S2 rotated right and leans down. ICA wide. 50 C small, low. Bottom arrow shaft broken.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	HRE	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9a-R and 18-R (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z13-HW

Obverse: Large, wide, low date. This 1. Thin 5. Large, thin, widely spaced stars. Stars 8 and 9 wide. Star 13 repunched.

Reverse: SB below right third of E1. SE below right upright of A2. Medium, unevenly spaced letters in legend. AM nearly touch at base. All arrow shafts recut. 50 small and C large in 50 C. 50 and C widely spaced. Short, wide neck on eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Brass	Plain; Reeded	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z16-GD

Obverse: Large, unevenly spaced and oriented date. Smushed bottom of 8. 18 high. 35 low. 5 tilts left. Small, widely spaced stars. Portrait right of center. Star 13 close to portrait.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below left of center of M. Small, crude letters in legend. A3 high and rotated right. Backwards S in PLURIBUS. 50 and C wide. 50 tall, C tiny and high in 50 C. Crude shield lines. Crooked arrow shafts.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.127-ABB	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. ~10-15° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 19-S (cccbhcc.com).

1835
Z14-GB

Obverse: Short, wide, low date. 1 high. 8 repunched south. Large, widely spaced stars. Stars 3 and 4 close. Stars 3, 4, 5 repunched.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below right upright of A2. Unevenly sized, widely spaced letters in legend. T2 large. A1 and E2 high. 50 C small and low. Period high on C in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LRE.139-ABN	*Lumpy* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-M (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z14-1834
O-111

Obverse: Short, wide, low date. 1 high. 8 repunched south. Large, widely spaced stars. Stars 3 and 4 close. Stars 3, 4, 5 repunched.

Reverse: Transfer die from 1834 O-111. SB upright of D. SE left foot of M. 50 C. small. I in PLURIBUS right of center of T2.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	LE.140-ABO	*Lumpy* Family	Prime.

Comments: None.

1835
Z15-GC

Obverse: Small, low, evenly spaced date. Center of 8 thick. Small, evenly spaced stars. Stars on right far from denticles. Liberty has puckered lips, but is not known to be related to the *Puckered Lips* Family.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right upright of A2. Small, widely spaced letters in legend. 50 C small and high. Seven talons on eagle (instead of the normal six).

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.177-ACZ	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1835
Z17-GE

Obverse: Small, tall, thin, low, unevenly spaced date. 18 close. 835 wide. Large, widely spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Extra serif of star 10. Long denticles. Curved nose. Open mouth.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below right edge of A2. Large, unevenly shaped and sized letters in legend; some letters hand-cut and others punched. RI wide. Thick scroll. 50 C small, high. Bottom arrow short. Poorly rendered eagle with large left wing and large head. Small branches and leaves.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.172-ACU	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 20-T (cccbhcc.com).

1835
Z18-IC

Obverse: Closely spaced date low from Liberty. Star 1 somewhat distant from Liberty.

Reverse: SB below right foot of T1. SE below center of M (estimated). Cartoonish-looking eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE-Unattributable	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2023. This low-grade example makes describing die diagnostics difficult.

1836 Z1-DL

Obverse:	Large, crude date. 1 high. 836 close. Large, poorly engraved, pointed, non-symmetrical stars.
Reverse:	SB below upright of D. SE below gap between A2 and M. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. As smaller than other letters. S in PLURIBUS right of S2. Small 0 in 50 C. Middle arrow wider than top and bottom arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. Crack from leaves to U, thru left field to E1. Crack from TA, to scroll, breaking between S O, right of F, and down right wing to RI. 45° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 19-S (Davignon 2010).

1836 Z2-EN

Obverse:	Large, crude, hand cut date. Elongated, pointed top 6. Large, thin, wide but unevenly spaced, pointed stars. Star 1 close to portrait.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of E1. SE below left upright of A2. Large, widely spaced letters in legend. STATES OF widely spaced. Large 50 C. Long arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass (est.)	LRE-Not studied	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 469 (1845) and Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1836 Z3-EO

Obverse: Small, short, widely and evenly spaced date. Medium sized, evenly spaced stars. Star 11 repunched right.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right edge of A2. Medium sized, evenly spaced, thin letters in legend. U, S1 and S2 repunched. 50 C thin and centered.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 25 and 50	German silver	LRE.132-ABG	*Too Legit to Quit* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010). It is estimated that at least 100 examples of this variety still exist.

1836 Z4-GF

Obverse: Large, tall, widely spaced date. 183 wide. 36 close. Tall, thin 1. 6 high with long knob. Large, moderately spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 6 and 7 are small Stars 9-12 are oversized.

Reverse: SB right quarter of E1. SE below left edge of M. Large, unevenly spaced letters in legend. Several letters in legend missing serifs. Large D. AMERICA widely spaced. Narrow A3. Small 0 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LRE.178-ADA; Plain	*Never Too Late* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 18-R (Davignon 2010).

1836
TD.O-116-GG

Obverse:	Transfer die of 1836 O-116 (obverse 12).
Reverse:	SB right quarter of E1. SE between AM. Large, unevenly spaced letters in legend. Several letters in legend missing serifs, especially the top of D. 50 and C wide. Small 0 in 50 C. C in 50 C leans left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.100-AAA	*Pointed Wing* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1836
Z7-GJ

Obverse:	Large, tall, widely spaced date. Elongated curved end of 6. Small, evenly spaced stars. Liberty is smiling.
Reverse:	SB below left edge of D. SE below center of M. Large letters in legend. 50 C large. Large arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.174-ACW	*Provisional* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 12-L (Davignon 2010). Example shown is double struck.

1836
Z5-GH

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced, wide date. Small, wide and evenly spaced stars. Bold lines on headband. LIBERTY weak.

Reverse: SB below right edge of E1. SE below left upright of M. Large, evenly spaced letters in legend. Thin feathers. Thin shield lines. Overall appearance of a transfer die with enhanced central details.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver	LE.173-ACV	Singleton	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. die crack through S1 to scroll. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-G (Davignon 2010). Surface micro-porosity common.

1836
Z6-GI

Obverse: Large, tall, fairly low date. 83 wide. Over-extended top curve on 6. Small, crude, widely spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Stars on right are especially crude.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below right edge of A2 and M. Medium sized, thin, unevenly spaced letters in legend. Each letter in STATES leans right. Tall 5 in 50 C. Thin arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Billon	LE.168-ACQ	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 11-K (Davignon 2010). One example is known with a completely broken planchet. One example is known with a double-struck reverse.

1836
Z8-GK

Obverse: Small, unevenly spaced date. 18 wide. Stars 5, 9, 12, 13 partially repunched; other stars may show minor repunching. Raised metal dot between portrait and star 1. Star 7 points to top of headband.

Reverse: SB between ED but closer to D. SE under left edge of M. Small letters. ES, F, A2, and E3 repunched. ED widely spaced. AM close. M rotated clockwise. Raised metal around AMERIC.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	LRE	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Very similar edge, if not the same as 1830 Z16-CT (D.5-E; Riddell 456).

1836-O
Z1-GL

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. 1 high. Most of O mintmark over 3. Small, evenly spaced stars. Stars 7-11 close to denticles. Star 12 points above back hair curl. Star 13 does not point perpendicular to denticles.

Reverse: Small letters in legend. Small As. Legend reads as one word. Modest space between A3 and arrow.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver; Brass	Reeded	*French Connection* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010). 1836-O's (maybe not this variety) auctioned by Woodward on 6/16/1880 (lot 1782); Massamore 12/11/1884 and sold for $8 (lot 461).

1836-O Z2-GM

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date and far from denticles. O mintmark between 83. Small, widely spaced stars. Star 12 below back hair curl. Star 13 close to denticles.

Reverse: Small letters in legend except large As. Large space between OF AMERICA. Modest space between A3 and arrow.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*French Connection* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 16-P (Davignon 2010).

1836-O Z3-GN

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. 1 high. O mintmark between 83. Small, widely spaced stars. Stars 5 and 6 wide. Star 12 points to back hair curl. Star 13 points perpendicular to denticles.

Reverse: Small letters in legend except large As. Modest spaced between OF AMERICA. Large space between A3 and arrow.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*French Connection* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 17-Q (cccbhcc.com).

1837 Z1-EO

Obverse: Small, wide, evenly spaced, low date. Small, wide and evenly spaced stars. Die line on outside tips of stars 3-4.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right edge of A2. Medium sized, evenly spaced, thin letters in legend. U, S1 and S2 repunched. 50 C thin and centered.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
More than 100	German silver	LRE.132-ABG	*Too Legit To Quit* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Obv**. light die crack from back of cap thru stars 8-9 to rim creating spur on inside points of both stars. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1837 Z2-GF

Obverse: Large, tall date. 37 oversized and leans left. Large, closely spaced stars.

Reverse: SB right quarter of E1. SE below left edge of M. Large, unevenly spaced letters in legend. Several letters in legend missing serifs. Large D. AMERICA widely spaced. Narrow A3. Small 0 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Unclear	*Never Too Late* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1837
Z3-GO

Obverse:	Large, wide, evenly spaced date. Small, even and widely spaced stars. Raised metal around star 5 and between stars 12 and 13.
Reverse:	Medium, poorly engraved legend. Words in legend closely spaced. ERI lean left. ER close. Poorly defined feathers.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	*Late Comer* Family	Prime. ~270º CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 11-K (Davignon 2010). Given the die rotation, this counterfeiter may have used square dies.

1837-O
Z3-TD.Seated

Obverse:	Large, wide, evenly spaced date. Small, even and widely spaced stars. Raised metal around star 5 and between stars 12 and 13.
Reverse:	Transfer die of a New Orleans mint Seated half dollar with an appearance of a late 1840s die.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Reeded	*Late Comer* Family	Prime.

Comments: First documented in 2024.

1837 Z4-GP

Obverse: Medium sized, wide, evenly spaced date. 1 high. Small, well formed, widely spaced stars. Stars 12 and 13 close. Narrow neck. Large forehead hair curl.
Reverse: Small, evenly spaced legend and denomination. Well defined arrows. Slightly large eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
More than 100	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 472 (1845), Taxay 25 (Taxay 1963), and Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010). One example is known with a 'radiated broken planchet. One example is known counter-stamped 'CAST STEEL' on the obverse.

1837 Z5-GQ

Obverse: Small, high, evenly spaced date. Most likely a transfer die.
Reverse: Small, thin, evenly spaced letters in legend and denomination. UNITED STATES widely spaced. Extremely poor 'eagle'. Short right wing. Shield tilted right.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Bronze (est.)	Plain	Singleton	Prime. ~15^{0} CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1837
Z6-GR

Obverse: Small, evenly spaced date. Bottom of 3 wide. 7 high. Small, well formed, widely spaced stars.
Reverse: Seated half dollar style reverse. Large, well formed letters in legend. Closely spaced words in legend. HA wide. Dentils merged above R (could be a striking issue).

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-H (Davignon 2010).

1837
Z7-GS

Obverse: Large, closely spaced date. 7 high and appears small. Small, well formed, widely spaced stars.
Reverse: Small, widely spaced letters in legend that are close to denticles. 0 above 5 in 50 CENTS.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Plain	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 9-I (Davignon 2010).

1837
Z8-GT

Obverse: Medium, unevenly spaced date. 183 close. 37 wide. 18 small. 37 large. Small, well formed, widely spaced stars. Star 6 repunched. Stars 7 and 8 wide. Centering dot on Liberty's neck.

Reverse: Medium, unevenly spaced letters in legend. S2 high. A3 low. Long, thin arrowheads. Thin leaves. Bottom of eagle feathers a collection of thin lines.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 10-J (Davignon 2010).

1837
Z9-GU

Obverse: Large, tall, closely spaced date aligned left of center. 1 high and thick. 7 low. Large, thin, well spaced stars. Portrait high and left. Portrait similar to *Smushed 8* or *Mexican Head* family.

Reverse: Large, well spaced letters in legend. Small, high 5. Small head and large feathers on eagle. A3 and arrowhead distant.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass or Billon (est.)	(Unknown)	Singleton	Prime.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 12-L (Davignon 2010).

1837
Z10-GV

Obverse: Low, close date. 18 small, 57 large. Small, unevenly spaced stars. 6x7 star configuration. Stars 1 to 2, 7 to 8, and 12 to 13 close. Liberty has a bold eye, and bean-shaped ear.

Reverse: Medium, unevenly oriented letters in legend. A1, and O repunched. Diagonal line through gule stripes in shield.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1838 Z1-G

Obverse:	Large, tall, wide date. 83 close. Medium, well formed, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 1-2 and 8-9 distant. Stars 10-13 very close.
Reverse:	SB below right-half of E1. SE below right base of A. 'T' in PLURIBUS below right side of T3. Top two arrows long, bottom arrow short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.100-AAA	*Clinton Head* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** Rev. cud at S2 and O. 30-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 23-X (Davignon 2010).

1838 Z2-GW

Obverse:	Large, tall, wide, evenly spaced date oriented right of center. Large, evenly spaced, non-symmetrical stars which point away from center. Stars 1, 7, 13 close to portrait.
Reverse:	SB below upright of E1. SE below right foot of left upright of M. Large, closely spaced letters in legend. UNITEDSTATES reads as one word. S1 repunched right. C in 50 C rotated right.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.109-AAK	*Clinton Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010). Reverse appears to be intentionally weakly struck.

1838 Z3-EO

Obverse: Mediums sized, evenly spaced, low date. Short 3. Medium sized, wide and evenly spaced stars close to denticles.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below right edge of A2. Medium sized, evenly spaced, thin letters in legend. U, S1 and S2 repunched. 50 C thin and centered.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
At least 500	German silver	LRE.132-ABG	*Too Legit To Quit* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation and medal turn.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-C (Davignon 2010).

1838 Z3-EP

Obverse: Mediums sized, evenly spaced, low date. Short 3. Medium sized, wide and evenly spaced stars close to denticles.

Reverse: SB below gap between E1 and D. SE below center of A2. Medium sized, evenly spaced, thin letters in legend. 50 C low.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
At least 500	German silver	LRE.132-ABG	*Too Legit To Quit* Family	Prime. Normal and 15-degree CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-E (Davignon 2010). One example is counterstamped '2'. One example is known struck multiple times off-center.

1838
Z4-GF

Obverse: Large, wide date. Large, moderately spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 6 and 7 are small Stars 9-12 are oversized. Stars 8 and 13 close to portrait.

Reverse: SB right quarter of E1. SE below left edge of M. Large, unevenly spaced letters in legend. Several letters in legend missing serifs. Large D. AMERICA widely spaced. Narrow A3. Small 0 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver; Billon	LRE.178-ADA; Plain	*Never Too Late* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 7-H (Davignon 2010).

1838
Z5-GO

Obverse: Medium sized, close and evenly spaced date. Tiny, widely spaced stars. Stars 9 and 10 wide. Date and portrait may be from a transfer die.

Reverse: Medium, poorly engraved legend. Words in legend closely spaced. ERI lean left. ER close. Poorly defined feathers.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	*Late Comer* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 10-K (Davignon 2010).

1838
Z6-GX

Obverse: Small, tall, evenly spaced, low date. 3 repunched. Tiny, well formed, widely spaced stars close to denticles. No eye on Liberty.

Reverse: Small, thin, unevenly spaced letters in legend. U low. UN close. TATE wide. S2 rotated clockwise. CA wide. A3 far from arrowheads. Long, bold tongue and eye on eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	*Mexican Head* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as 1838/78 Davignon 15-P (Davignon 2010).

1838
Z7-GY

Obverse: Short, small, evenly spaced date. 3 larger than 18-8. Tiny, widely spaced stars. Star 13 repunched. LIBERTY raised. Liberty missing an eye.

Reverse: Large, well formed, evenly spaced letters in legend. L in DOL touches lowest arrowhead. Bottom two arrowheads thinner than top arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	*Raised Liberty* Family	**a)** Prime. ~10-15° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 8-I (Davignon 2010). .

1838
Z8-GZ

Obverse: Short, small, thin, evenly spaced date. Tiny, widely spaced stars. LIBERTY raised. Raised metal along rim above star 1.

Reverse: Tall, medium sized letters in legend. Short arrows. Long, thin arrowheads. L in DOL does not touch lowest arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver; Brass	Reeded	*Raised Liberty* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Obv.** Die crack at top of Cap.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 26 (Taxay 1963), and Davignon 17-R (Davignon 2010). One example known with a 'radiated' broken planchet. German silver planchets are poor in quality.

1838
Z9-HA

Obverse: Medium, unevenly spaced date. Short 1. 38 close. Small, wide but unevenly spaced stars. Stars 9, 10 , 11 distant. Stars 12 and 13 close. Star 13 next to date. Oversized portrait. Flat nose on Liberty.

Reverse: Medium, closely spaced letters in legend. UNITEDSTATES reads as one word. Eagle has long, thin neck. Long, thin arrowheads far from A3. Shield tilts left on eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	*Long Neck* Family	Prime. Medal turn.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 13-N (Davignon 2010).

1838
Z10-HB

Obverse: Tall, thin, evenly spaced date. Large, elongated, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 11 and 12 distant. Star 13 far from portrait. Portrait offset left.

Reverse: SB below center of E1. SE below center of M. Medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. 50 C small and very high. Ghost arrowheads above and below top arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE-Unattributable	*Puckered Lips* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. die crack through R. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 24-Y (cccbhcc.com).

1838
Z18-CP

Obverse: Date numerals irregular but evenly spaced and level. Small, irregular stars. Stars 9 and 10 close. Stars 12 and 13 distant.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below right upright of M. Small letters in legend. AM and CA widely spaced. Inside top of R filled.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Lettered	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2023. The alloy is essentially German silver but with a 19% silver content.

1838
Z11-HC

Obverse: Small, tall, thin date. First 8 leans left. Tiny, well formed, widely spaced stars.
Reverse: Small, thin, widely spaced letters in legend. Extra upright on left side of N in UNITED. Die line on upper-left part of S1. 5 high. Bottom two arrows long and thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 15 and 20	German silver	Reeded	*Droopy Leaves* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1838
Z11-II

Obverse: Small, tall, thin date. First 8 leans left. Tiny, well formed, widely spaced stars.
Reverse: In the middle pair of leaves, the lower leaf points to the edge and slightly upwards whereas on reverse HC the end of the leaf points downwards.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Reeded	*Droopy Leaves* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First reported in 2024.

1838
Z12-HD

Obverse: Large, tall, crude date. 1 and 3 repunched. Small, widely spaced stars. Tall extremely poor portrait. LIBERTY in headband poorly engraved.

Reverse: Medium sized, poorly cut and unevenly spaced letters in legend. UNITEDSTATES reads as one word. A and F in HALF repunched. Long, thin talons.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Nicknamed 'Horse Face' and previously recorded as Davignon 5-F (Davignon 2010).

1838
Z13-HE

Obverse: Large, tall date. 3 bold. Second 8 narrow. Large, pointed, close but unevenly spaced stars. Star 1 repunched. Stars 5 and 6 close. Die 'rust' across surface, especially around stars.

Reverse: SB below upright of D. SE below right of center of M. Large, tall, thin letters in legend. Ss lean back. A3 far from arrows. Scroll high and close to legend. 50 C right of center. Small 0 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE.176-ACZ; Plain	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-G (Davignon 2010). Similar to *Clinton Head* Family, but no connection has yet been made. The edge is possibly LRE, but the one example studied had somewhat weak lettering.

1838
Z14-HF

Obverse:	Medium, widely spaced date. 183 progressively lower. Compressed 3. Small, wide, evenly spaced stars.
Reverse:	Medium, closely spaced letters in legend far from denticles. Letters in UNITED thick. HALF DOL.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 14-O (Davignon 2010). One example is known double struck. Small planchet (30.37 mm).

1838
Z15-HG

Obverse:	Large, wide, evenly spaced date. Large 3. Medium sized, square tipped, widely spaced stars. Stars 5 and 6 wide. Star 13 close to date.
Reverse:	Medium sized, unevenly spaced letters in date. NI close. A3 far from arrowhead. CEN close. Tall T in CENTS.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 474 (1845) and Davignon 16-Q (Davignon 2010).

1838
Z16-HH

Obverse:	Tall, evenly spaced, crude date. 3 low. Medium sized, unevenly spaced stars. Stars 10 and 11 close. Stars 4-5, and 8-9 wide. Tall portrait. Long, flat nose.
Reverse:	Medium sized, evenly spaced letters in legend. A2 tall. Long, thin arrows.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 19-T (Davignon 2010). Nicknamed 'Wicked Witch of the West' portrait.

1838-O
Z1-HJ

Obverse:	Medium, thin, evenly spaced, low date. Thick 1. 3 large and low. Small, widely spaced stars. 5 x 5 star orientation. Stars 6 and 7 distant.
Reverse:	Small, thin evenly spaced letters in legend. Words in legend run together. HALF DOL widely spaced. O mintmark above F D. Bottom two arrows close.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	Reeded	*Long Neck* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 12-M (Davignon 2010).

1838-O
Z2-HK

Obverse: Large, evenly spaced date. 1 is high. O-mintmark visible but partially weak. Small, evenly spaced stars close to denticles.

Reverse: Little or no spacing between words. L's and T's are undersized compared to adjacent letters. Top arrows far from A3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*French Connection* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1838-O
Z3-HI

Obverse: Medium, evenly spaced date. Date is low and close to denticles. Block 8s in date. Small, evenly spaced stars.

Reverse: Large, long arrows. Top arrow is close to A3. Eagle's head is relatively close to ATES. Spike coming out of the eagle's right wing between ER.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Copper; White metal	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: The reverse is stylistically similar to a Seated reverse given the O-mintmark.

1839-O Z1-HL

Obverse: Medium sized, closely spaced date. 3 low and leans left. Lower knobs on 39 touch center. Right half of O mintmark over 3. O leans left. Small, well formed, evenly spaced stars. Star 13 points to lower hair curl.

Reverse: Small, unevenly spaced and sized letters in legend. Short Ts. Tall As. A3 nearly touches arrowhead. Small Ls in HALF DOL. OL distant. Top arrow long.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*French Connection* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010).

1839-O Z2-HM

Obverse: 39 wide. 3 tilts above 9. Stars 12 and 13 relatively close and below bottom hair curls.

Reverse: UNITEDSTATES reads as one word. STATES OF wide. Small Ls. M aligned to the top of the right wing.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
None	Bronze (est.)	Reeded (?)	*French Connection* Family	Prime.

Comments: Previously recorded as Riddell 476 (1845) and Davignon 2-B (Davignon 2010).

1839-O Z3-HN

Obverse: Medium sized, unevenly spaced date. 83 wide. 3 level. Lower knobs on 39 touch center. Right half of O mintmark over 3. O upright. Small, well formed, evenly spaced stars. Star 1 close to portrait. Star 13 points away from lower hair curl. Denticle left of upright of 1.

Reverse: Small, unevenly spaced and sized letters in legend. Words in legend run together. Small As and Ts. T3 missing (second T in STATES). A3 very far from arrowhead. Large.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*French Connection* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-D (Davignon 2010).

1839-O Z4-HO

Obverse: Medium sized, evenly spaced date. 3 level. Lower knobs on 39 touch center. Center of O mintmark between 83. O upright. Small, well formed, evenly spaced stars. Star 1 away from portrait. Star 13 points away from lower hair curl. Denticle centered below upright of 1.

Reverse: Small, evenly spaced and sized letters in legend. Larges As. Small Ls. F in HALF repunched right. A3 close to arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	Reeded	*French Connection* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 6-F (Davignon 2010).

1839-O
Z5-HP

Obverse: The date numerals 18 are low and tilted to the right. Well done bust that is taller, wider, and more highly placed. The O-mintmark is faint in comparison to the date's boldness.

Reverse: HALFDOL reads as one word with the period missing. The legend reads as one word with unevenness, a smaller A in STATES, and an upward spike in the center of the O in OF.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	(unknown)	Reeded (?)	Singleton	Prime.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 5-E (Davignon 2010). With more research and better photos this variety may be a *French Connection* family variety. Obverse and reverse descriptions from Davignon.

1840
Z1-CP

Obverse: Thin, unevenly spaced and sized letters in date. Small, high 1. 4 large with long stem. Small, high 0. Medium sized, unevenly spaced, short pointed stars. Star 6 high. Stars on right close.

Reverse: SB below left edge of D. SE below right upright of M. Small letters in legend. AM and CA widely spaced. Inside top of R filled.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.111-AAM	*Buck-Toothed Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 3-D (Davignon 2010). Different date punch style than other varieties in this family.

1840
Z2-HA

Obverse: Tall, medium sized, evenly spaced date. Wide 0. Large portrait. Small, widely spaced stars. Long, thin denticles.

Reverse: Medium, closely spaced letters in legend. UNITEDSTATES reads as one word. Eagle has long, thin neck. Long, thin arrowheads far from A3. Shield tilts left on eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*Long Neck* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 4-E (Davignon 2010).

1840
Z3-HQ

Obverse: Large, tall, wide date. 8 and 0 high. 0 close to lower hair curl. Small, widely spaced stars. 6 x 6 star orientation. Star 7-10 close.

Reverse: Large, tall, closely spaced letters in legend. Words evenly spaced. A1 low. I2 overlaps R and C. A3 nearly touches arrowhead. Lines behind arrow feathers. Period centered on L2 in DOL.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*Fantasy* Family	Prime. ~30° CCW die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010); possibly Taxay 27 (Taxay 1963).

1840
Z3-HR

Obverse: Large, tall, wide date. 8 and 0 high. 0 close to lower hair curl. Small, widely spaced stars. 6 x 6 star orientation. Star 7-10 close.

Reverse: Large, tall, closely spaced letters in legend. Many letters touch. Words run together in legend. A3 far from arrowhead. Lines behind arrow feathers. Period low on L2 in DOL.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Copper	Reeded	*Fantasy* Family	Prime.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-B (Davignon 2010); possibly Taxay 27 (Taxay 1963). One example is known double struck on the obverse.

1840
Z4-HS

Obverse: Small, thin, crude, unevenly spaced date. 84 wide. Small, well formed, unevenly spaced stars. Assuming 13 stars, stars 3 and 4 distant, and stars 11 and 12 close.

Reverse: Small, thin, crude, unevenly spaced letters in legend. EN connected. OF AMERICA not visible.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Copper	Plain	Singleton	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. crack from rim to center of leaves. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 2-C (Davignon 2010).

1841
Z1-HR

Obverse: Large, fairly evenly spaced date. 84 may be close. Stars 1 to 6 widely spaced. Stars 7 to 13 closely spaced.

Reverse: Large, tall, closely spaced letters in legend. Many letters touch. Words run together in legend. A3 far from arrowhead. Lines behind arrow feathers. Period low on L2 in DOL.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Copper	Reeded	*Fantasy* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1842
Z1-GF

Obverse: Large, tall, widely spaced, unevenly set date. Upright of 1 narrows at bottom. 8 low. 42 high and nearly touch lower hair curl. Large, closely spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 5, 6, 7 repunched.

Reverse: SB right quarter of E1. SE below left edge of M. Large, unevenly spaced letters in legend. Several letters in legend missing serifs. Large D. AMERICA widely spaced. Narrow A3. Small 0 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	German silver; Billon	Reeded; LRE.178-ADA	*Never Too Late* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Taxay 28 (Taxay 1963) and Davignon 1-A (Davignon 2010). Woodward auction 6/5/1880 (lot 453); 12/10/1880 (lot 320; $0.45); 6/7/1882 (lot 891; $0.20). Two examples known double struck.

1842
Z2-GF

Obverse: Large, tall, widely spaced, evenly set date. Normal 1. 8 low. 2 high and nearly touch lower hair curl. Large, closely spaced, non-symmetrical stars. Stars 4-7 widely spaced.

Reverse: SB right quarter of E1. SE below left edge of M. Large, unevenly spaced letters in legend. Several letters in legend missing serifs. Large D. AMERICA widely spaced. Narrow A3. Small 0 in 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LRE.178-ADA	*Never Too Late* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Previously recorded as Davignon 1-A with recut date (Davignon 2010).

1847
Z1-HT

Obverse: Medium sized, evenly spaced date. 1 high. Knob at the base of 7 turning right similar to the 7 used on 1837 Reeded Edge CBHs. Base of Liberty wide and relatively flat.

Reverse: Denomination is 50 CENTS. Long, thin arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass (est.)	Reeded (?)	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Corrosion has obscured some of the finer details found on this variety.

N.D.R. Z1-HU

Obverse:	Date currently unknown. Star 1 far from portrait. Star 7 points to top of headband.
Reverse:	SB between ED. SE appears to be right side of A2 or left edge of M. U in PLURIBUS appears centered or slightly right of center of E2.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE.106-AAI	*Square Tip* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Future research may determine this is actually reverse AL.

N.D.R. Z2-HV

Obverse:	Large, thin stars. Two points of star 7 point to forehead hair curls and headband, and two points of star 13 points to lower-right hair curls.
Reverse:	SB position unknown. SE right foot of A. Eagle positioned low, and encroaching on 50 C. Leaves are thin. Bottom arrow is short.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Copper	LRE.123-AAX	*Smushed 8s* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: The example shown was double struck on the reverse.

N.D.R.
Z3-AB

Obverse:	Date currently unknown. Star 1 close to Liberty. Star 7 points between hair curl and headband. Star 13 far from lower-back hair curl. Overall, very similar to the obverse of 1811 3/C.
Reverse:	SB below upright of D. SE below left edge of M. Small letters in legend. Left and right halves of D not connected. 50 C. low. 5 is large. Bottom right pair of leaves turns inwards to 50 C.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	LE-Unattributable	*BBB* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

N.D.R.
Z4-EY

Obverse:	Thick center part of 8. Base of 3 below 8. 4th digit in date not clear. Stars elongated. Star 11 re-punched.
Reverse:	SB below upright of E1. SE below left upright of M. Small, high, evenly spaced letters in legend. Scroll low. 50 C high.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	LE-Unattributable	*Puckered Lips* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First identified by Louis Scuderi.

Transfer Dies

As of this publication, 48 different transfer die counterfeit CBH die marriages have been documented. Most of these have been attributed to their genuine, Overton die marriage as identified in table 1.44, below. Some varieties and examples are known in such poor condition that one or both sides cannot yet be attributed to a specific Overton variety, but they also do not match another documented transfer die counterfeit CBH die marriage, and thus they are listed here.

Within this research and documentation effort, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish between a transfer die and cast counterfeit CBH, especially when only images are available for study. Some transfer die counterfeits have been attributed as casts in Davignon and elsewhere. As such, current attributions based on production method may change over time and additional research is needed here; notes have been added where attributions are currently questionable.

Six transfer die varieties are currently associated with three counterfeit families, the *Hybrid* family (1834 Davignon 9-I), the *8 Reales Edge* family and the *Anachronistic* family. Future research, especially the lettered edge dies, is anticipated to result in more transfer die varieties being connected to a family, and potentially at a rate similar to hand-made die varieties.

In general, transfer die counterfeit CBHs are scarce. Most varieties seen are known by five or fewer examples. Their planchets range from copper, bronze, German silver, billon and potentially other alloys. Their quality ranges from very good to poor. By and large, transfer die counterfeit CBHs tend to weigh about the same as hand-made die struck counterfeit CBHs because they were struck on the same type of planchet alloys.

Environmentally damaged genuine CBHs have been misattributed as transfer die counterfeits, as discussed below.

The moderate availability of transfer die counterfeit CBHs has allowed for adequate pricing and value data. Most examples can be acquired for $20 to $50, but some examples have sold for $100 or more. Overall, these are valued less than most hand-made die struck CBH varieties.

Meet the Families

Eight Reales Edge

The *Eight Reales Edge* family has three known varieties dated 1826, 1829, and 1830. Three obverse and three reverse dies were used to create these three varieties. The planchet alloys appear to be bronze. The attribute connecting these varieties together is their edge which resembles the bar-dot style of portrait eight reales of the 18th and early 19th centuries. This edge feature could suggest these were made in Mexico or further south, or that a counterfeiter was making both counterfeit eight reales and CBHs.

None of these varieties were reported by Riddell. All three varieties are very rare with just a single documented example each.

Table 1.43. *Eight Reales Edge*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	Alloy
1826	O-119	O-119	(?)
1829	O-119	O-119	(?)
1830	O-106	O-106	Bz

Bar-dot style edge design.

Anachronistic

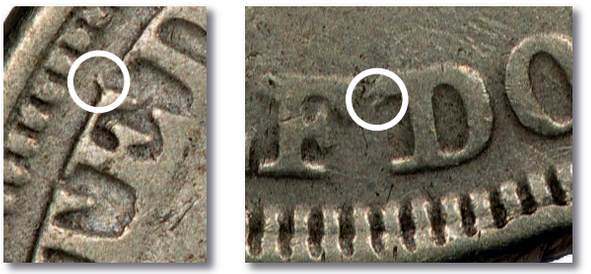
The *Anachronistic* family has two known varieties dated 1837 and 1838. This is called the *Anachronistic* family because the two CBH obverse dies are paired with a common reverse die from an 1842 to 1866 period Seated half dollar. Both varieties were struck on German silver planchets and have reeded edges.

Neither variety was reported by Riddell. Both varieties are scarce, but the 1837 has about twice as many reported examples as the 1838.

A die line along the upper-right corner of E1 and raised metal below the upper-left serif of D in DOL. are notable pick-up points, as shown to the right.

Table 1.44. *Anachronistic*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	Dav.	Alloy
1837	GR-1(?)	Seated	4-D	GS
1838	GR-(?)		11-L	GS



Reverse raised areas as variety pick-up points, as circled.

Table 1.46. Transfer Die Counterfeit CBH Varieties

Date	Overton or GR Obv.	Overton or GR Rev.	Riddell	Davignon	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Notes
1809	O-106	O-106		1-A	RE		Bi	
1811	O-108	O-108		1-A			(?)	
1817	O-112	O-112	441	1-A			(?)	None presently documented. (This may be a cast)
1818	O-112	O-112		4-D			(?)	Listed as a cast in Davignon.
1820	O-106	O-106		3-C			(?)	Listed as a cast in Davignon.
1820	O-103	O-103		5-E			(?)	
1821	O-106	O-106	443	1-A			(?)	Listed as a potential cast in Davignon.
1823	O-104	O-104		6-F	PE		GS	
1824	O-101	O-101		3-C	PE		Bi	
1824	O-117	O-117		4-D	PE		Bi	
1824	O-112a	O-112a		Unl.	Hand-Lettered		Bi	
1826	O-115	O-115		5-E			(?)	One example is double struck.
1826	O-102/3	(unk)		11-K			(?)	
1826	O-119	O-119		13-M	Circle-Rectangle		(?)	*8 Reales Edge* family.
1827	O-126	O-126		Unl.	Hand-Reeded		Bi	
1828	O-117	O-117	452	3-C			(?)	(This may be a cast)
1829	O-111	O-111	455	3-C			Bi	
1829	O-119	O-119		10-K	Circle-Rectangle		(?)	*8 Reales Edge* family.
1829	O-113	O-113		12-M			(?)	

Date	Overton or GR Obv.	Overton or GR Rev.	Riddell	Davignon	E.1	E.2	Alloy	Notes
1829	O-117	O-117		19-T			(?)	
1829	O-114	O-114		21-V	(LR)	(LR)	Bi	LR = Lettered-Reeded
1830	O-108	O-108		8-H; 28-CC	(LR)	(LR)	GS	
1830	O-117	O-117		10-O	(LE)	(LE)	GS	
1830	(unk)	(unk)		26-AA			Bi	
1830	O-113	O-113		Unl.	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	
1830	O-106	O-106		Unl.	Circle-Rectangle		Br	*8 Reales Edge* family.
1832	O-101/2	1833 O-108		10-J			(?)	
1832	O-103	O-103		21-V	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	
1833	O-101	O-101		27-AA			(?)	Listed as a cast in Davignon. (potentially a genuine coin)
1833	O-105	O-105	465	Unl.			(?)	None presently documented. Not Davignon 12-L, as listed.
1833	O-114	O-114		Unl.	(LE)	(LE)	CuAgZn	Minor die rotation
1834	O-119	O-119		8-H			Pw	Listed as a potential cast in Davignon.
1834	O-111	O-111		9-I			Bi	*Lumpy* family. Known with normal coin turn and 30-degree CCW die rotation.
1834	(unk)	(unk)		11-K	(LE)	(LE)	Br	
1834	O-113	O-113		16-P			Pw	Listed as a cast in Davignon.
1834	O-115	1829 O-114		Unl.			(?)	
1836	(unk)	O-113	470	3-C	(LR)	(LR)	GS	
1836	O-123	O-123		9-I			Cu	Listed as a cast in Davignon.
1836	O-115	O-115		14-N	(LE)	(LE)	Bi	
1836	O-106(?)	O-106(?)		15-O			(?)	
1836	O-108	O-108		Unl.			Bi	
1837	GR-1(?)	Seated		4-D	RE		GS	*Anachronistic* family.
1837	GR-1(?)	1838-9 CBH		7-G	RE		GS	Anachronistic type of variety. Normal letter reverse. Minor die rotation. Obv. die crack from 1 o'clock to top of Cap.
1838	GR-(?)	Seated		11-L	RE		GS	*Anachronistic* family.
1838	(unk)	(unk)		21-V			(?)	(This may be a cast)
1838	(unk)	(unk)		Unl.	RE		Cu	
1839-O	(unk)	(unk)	477	3-C	RE		Bi	Listed as a cast in Davignon.

Casts

Currently, 88 different cast counterfeit CBH die marriages have been documented and most have been attributed to genuine CBHs; Table 1.45 to the right and on the following page summarize the documented cast counterfeit CBHs. A few varieties are known in such poor condition that one or both sides cannot yet be attributed to a specific genuine die marriage, but they also do not match another documented cast counterfeit CBH die marriage, and thus they are listed here. Additional cast counterfeits may be added as a result of new discoveries and further research into resolving whether currently attributed transfer die varieties are actually casts.

In general, cast counterfeit CBHs are scarce. Most varieties seen are known by just one example. Most examples seen were cast in white metal, while a smaller proportion have been seen in brass or undetermined alloys. Their quality ranges from acceptable to poor. By and large, cast counterfeit CBHs tend to weigh around 10 grams or are otherwise noticeably underweight.

Environmentally damaged genuine CBHs have been and are occasionally still misattributed as cast counterfeits. Due diligence should be conducted whenever possible to accurately attribute and authenticate a CBH.

The moderate availability of these cast counterfeits has allowed for sufficient pricing and value data. Most examples can be acquired for $5 to $25, but some examples have sold for $50 to $250 depending on individual demand.

Round metal mold of an 1837 CBH.

Table 1.45. Cast Counterfeit CBH Varieties

Date	Overton Obv.	Overton Rev.	Riddell	Dav.
1808	O-102	O-102		1-A
1808	O-107	O-107		2-B
1809	O-111(?)	O-111(?)		Unl.
1809	O-112	O-112		3-C
1809	(unk)	(unk)		2-B
1810	O-105	O-105		1-A
1810	O-108	O-108		Unl.
1811	O-112	O-112		Unl.
1812	O-107	O-107		3-C
1813	O-105(?)	O-105(?)		Unl.
1813	O-106 or 9	O-106 or 9		Unl.
1813	O-107	O-107		3-D
1814	O-103	O-103		2-B
1817	O-107	O-107		Unl.
1818	O-107	O-107		5-E
1818	O-108	O-108	442	1-A
1819	O-101	O-101		2-B
1819	O-105	O-105		Unl.
1819	O-111	O-111		1-A
1819	O-112a	O-112a		Unl.
1821	O-102	O-102		Unl.
1821	O-104	O-104		5-G
1822	O-106	O-106		10-J
1823	O-103	O-103		8-H
1823	O-107	O-107		5-E
1823	O-110	O-110		7-G
1823	O-112	O-112		2-B
1825	O-106(?)	O-106(?)		8-H
1825	O-114	(unk)		Unl.
1826	O-105	O-105		7-G
1826	O-109	O-109		9-I
1826	O-110	O-110		12-L
1826	O-111	O-111		6-F
1826	O-118	O-118		Unl.

Date	Overton Obv.	Overton Rev.	Riddell	Dav.
1827	O-102	O-102		5-E
1827	O-117	O-117		Unl.
1827	O-128	O-128	450	2-B
1827	O-131	O-131		Unl.
1827	O-135	O-135		Unl.
1827	O-146	O-146		7-G
1827	O-147	O-147		4-D
1828	O-103	O-103		Unl.
1828	O-104	O-104		8-H
1828	O-106	O-106		9-I
1828	O-113	O-113		10-J
1829	O-102	O-102		16-Q
1829	O-108	O-108		Unl.
1829	O-110	O-110		5-E
1829	O-112	O-112		4-D
1829	O-114	O-114		Unl.
1829	O-115	O-115		14-O
1829	O-116	O-116		6-F
1830	O-105	O-105		11-K
1830	O-115	O-115		25-Z
1830	O-116	O-116		Unl.
1830	O-117	O-117		18-T
1830	O-119	O-119		10-J
1830	O-120	O-120		15-Q
1830	O-122	O-122		12-L
1830	O-123	O-123		23-Y
1831	O-107	O-107		15-O
1831	O-119	O-119	457	4-D

Date	Overton Obv.	Overton Rev.	Riddell	Dav.
1832	O-106	O-106		19-T
1832	O-107	O-107	459	4-D
1832	O-118	O-118		14-O
1833	O-102	O-102		Unl.
1833	O-107	O-107		31-FF
1833	O-110	O-110		26-Z
1833	O-113	O-113		37-KK
1834	O-101	O-101		Unl.
1834	O-104	O-104		2-B
1834	O-107	O-107	468	4-D
1834	O-109	O-109		14-N
1834	O-116	O-116		10-J
1834	O-121	O-121	467	3-C
1835	O-101	O-101		15-O
1835	O-107	O-107		7-G
1835	O-110	O-110		3-C
1836	O-110	O-110		10-J
1836	O-111	O-111		Unl.
1836	O-112	O-112		8-H
1836	O-117	O-117		Unl.
1836	O-118	O-118		6-F
1836	O-122	O-122		1-A
1837	(unk)	(unk)		5-E
1838	(unk)	(unk)	473	2-B
1838	(unk)	(unk)		9-J
1838	(unk)	(unk)		18-S

This 1835 mold came from the family of an old banker who passed away in NJ.

Obverse-half of an 1825 CBH mold found in an old garbage dump in Maine.

Delisted Davignon's

Many counterfeit CBH varieties listed in Davignon (2010) have since been delisted either because they were inadvertently listed in duplicate or they were determined to be genuine coins. Fifteen varieties have been identified as duplicate listings as shown in Table 1.46.

Genuine coins listed as counterfeits are identified in Table 1.47. Many of the genuine counterfeits show environmental damage and this factor likely led to their misidentification of authenticity.

Table 1.46 Duplicate Davignon's

Date	Dav.	Reason
1822	7-G	Same as 1832 3-C
1826	2-B	Same as 1826 4-D
1826	8-H	Same as 1826 3-C
1826	10-J	Same as 1826 14-N
1828	12-L	Same as 1828 1-A
1828	16-Q	Same as 1816 1-A
1829	15-P	Same as 1829 1-A
1830	28-CC	Same as 1830 8-H
1831	16-P	Trial test strike
1832	24-Y	Same as 1832 5-E
1833	41-X	Same as 1833 33-X
1834	19-S	Same as 1831 12-L
1834	20-T	Same as 1834 1-A
1835	9a-R	Relisted as 1835 18-R
1838	22-W	Same as 1838 17-R

Table 1.47. Delisted Davignon's

Date	Attrib.	Dav.	Reason
1808	O-104	3-C	Genuine
1810	O-110	2-B	Genuine
1818	O-112	4-D	Genuine
1819	O-115	3-C	Genuine
1823	O-101	3-C	Genuine
1826	O-108	15-O	Genuine
1826	O-112	16-P	Genuine
1828	O-118	15-O	Genuine
1829	O-105	9-J	Genuine
1831	O-102	Unl.	Genuine
1832	O-???	13-M	Genuine
1832	O-115	18-S	Genuine
1832	O-102	26-AA	Genuine
1833	O-108	34-HH	Genuine
1835	O-103	14-N	Genuine
1836	O-102	13-M	Genuine

Die Trials

It is not surprising that some counterfeiting organizations tested their dies to ensure die strength and that details would show on the finished product. However, it is surprising that examples like these still exist.

The four examples shown below are thought by the author to all by die trials given the crude roundness of the metal or planchets used for striking, and in the case of 1830 Davignon 1-A a square piece of copper was used.

1829

Comments: Davignon 15-P. Copper. Plain edge. Ragged edge. *Pointed Wing* family.

1830

Comments: Davignon 1-A. *Ski Nose* family.

1831

Comments: Davignon 16-P. Oversized, thin copper planchet.

1831

Comments: Davignon obverse 3. *Smushed 8s* family.

Blank Planchet

The example to the right is purported to be a blank planchet with a lettered edge that was supposed to be used for striking a counterfeit CBH variety dated 1823 (Davignon, 2010:82). However, this author studied this piece against most varieties and multiple examples dated 1823 and did not find a match to any of those varieties. A more comprehensive study of other die struck counterfeit CBHs was not completed at the time of this publication.

N/A

Comments: Obverse-reverse variety unknown.

Overstruck on Genuine Coins

The examples shown and referenced below were all struck over genuine coins and are a die trial subset. Most of these 32 to 34 mm wide counterfeit CBH dies struck smaller large cents whose planchet diameter is about 27.5 mm and in one case a larger Brazilian 80 Reis whose diameter is about 37 mm.

Only one documented counterfeit CBH variety has been documented on these. Two varieties, 1818 on 1808 and 1838 on 1798 large cents, are confirmed as being previously undocumented varieties. The two remaining examples have not been studied to generate additional information.

1818 on 1808 Large Cent

Comments: Counterfeit CBH variety not documented. Two reported.

1838 on 1798 Large Cent

Comments: This example is graded PCGS-45. Counterfeit CBH variety not documented. It is double struck and heavily rotated. One reported.

1823 on Large Cent

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Comments: Variety unknown. One reported.

1832 D.2-B on 1835 Large Cent

Comments: ANS 1941.147.7. The large cent is either variety N-15 or –16. One reported.

1832? on 1844 Large Cent

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Comments: Counterfeit CBH variety unknown. Two reported, and both examples may not be on the same dated large cent.

1832 5-E on Brazilian 80 Reis

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Comments: See Davignon 2010; 92. One reported.

Multiple Strike

On rare occasions in the coining process, after a normal first strike, the coin may not be ejected, the coin will rotate in the collar and get struck again resulting in a multi-struck coin. In rarer cases, the coin will flip over and land back inside the collar and struck again resulting in a flip-over multi-struck coin. Finally, in the unique case of 1821 Z4-AI pictured below, the coin was struck normally and then the reverse die was rotated 180-degrees resulting in a reverse-only flip-over double struck effort. Less than a dozen surviving counterfeit CBHs have been documented being struck multiple times. Six examples are shown below.

1821
Z4-AI

Comments: Davignon 3-D. *Ski Nose* family. Reverse only flip-over double struck. One known.

1830
Z1-P

Comments: Davignon 1-A. *Ski Nose* family. Double-struck. One reported for the variety.

1833
Z16-EO

Comments: Davignon 1-A. *Too Legit to Quit* family. Double-struck. One reported for the variety.

1834
Z14-GA

Comments: Undocumented hand-made die variety. flip-over double strike with quarter-turn. Plain edge. One reported for the variety.

1836
Z8-GJ

Comments: Davignon 12-L. Rotated double-struck. One reported for the variety.

1838
Z3-EO

Comments: Davignon 3-C. *Too Legit to Quit* family. Double-struck. One reported for the variety.

Counterstamped CBHs

Counterfeit CBHs circulated alongside their genuine counterparts at a time when apparently not everyone necessarily cared or knew that they were handling privately produced coins. As a result, counterfeit CBHs experienced a similar level of counterstamping as genuine CBHs based on the sample of examples which still exist.

A mix of individual punches, people and merchants, guarantee stamps (i.e., 'PURE COIN' and 'CAST STEEL'), and in one case a marked example as 'BAD' are all known on counterfeit CBHs. The 'BAD' stamp was likely applied decades after the piece was out of circulation and potentially by a coin dealer around the turn of the century. Whereas the other stamps were likely applied when that example was in circulation. This information might help narrow-down when and where pieces were made. For example, in the 1850 census, the last name Perret was common in Louisiana, and a C.W. Reed was identified as a physician in Lawrence, Illinois.

Additional counterstamped counterfeit CBHs exist. Some of these are from prepared punches, such as an 1833 J. FOX (Brunk 2003; 166) located in the ANS collection, while others are individual number or letter punches sometimes creating someone's initials.

In general, counterstamped counterfeit CBHs are as rare as multi-struck examples, and are an intriguing subset of this part of numismatics.

1820 Z2-Z
PURE COIN

1823 Z1-AM
BAD

1825 Z3-AM
C.W. REED

1833 Z17-EQ
A. PERRET / DOCTOR

1837 Z4-GP
CAST STEEL

Date/Variety unknown
Too Legit to Quit
(Multiple Counterstamps)

Seated
1861

Authentic Coin Overview

1839-1891 • Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, Carson City Mints

Seated half dollars were coined for 53 years from 1839 to 1891. The Philadelphia mint coined them each year and in most years they had the highest mintages. The New Orleans mint struck half dollars from 1840 to 1861, with the termination due to the Civil War and later factors, and mintages were comparably large like those struck in Philadelphia. The San Francisco mint coined half dollars from 1855 to 1878, and mintages were usually fairly low to modest with the exception of 1875, 1876, 1877 when they were fairly strong. Finally, the Carson City mint struck half dollars for a short period from 1870 to 1878. Mintages from 1871 to 1874 and 1878 were low, while from 1875 to 1877 mintages were in the over a million.

The design, composition and weight of the Seated half dollar changed periodically and with relative frequency over its 53-year history. The 1839 half dollars were designed with no drapery from elbow, and were struck on the same planchet stock as the preceding Capped Bust, reeded edge half dollars. Later in 1839 Liberty was dressed with drapery at her elbow. The reverse had small or medium letters through 1842. Later in 1842 the reverse was designed with large letters, and this stayed the same through 1853. In 1853 arrows were added next to the date to denote a weight reduction and rays in the field of the reverse. From 1854 to 1855 the obverse stayed the same from 1853 but the rays on the reverse were removed.

From 1856 to 1866 the pre-1853 obverse resumed along with the reduced weight planchet. Later in 1866 and through 1873 a motto in a banner was added above the eagle on the reverse. From 1873 to 1874 arrows were added next to the date again to denote a weight gain of 0.06 grains. Arrows were removed starting in 1875 and remained gone through 1891.

Type 1, No Drapery

Type 2, Drapery

Type 5, Motto above Eagle

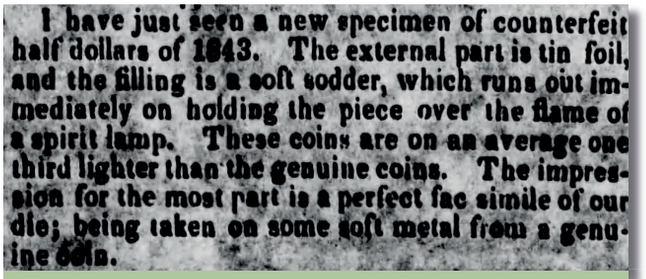
Type 3, Arrows and Rays

Type 6, Arrows and Motto

The Counterfeiters

We were shown on last Monday a counterfeit half dollar, passed on a paralyzed man a few miles south of this on the military road, by one in a gang of movers.
True Democrat, November 2, 1859

When the Seated half dollar was first minted in 1839, the U.S. was in the midst of the Panic of 1837 depression. The CBH was the most popular U.S. coin to counterfeit, especially struck pieces, both in the couple years prior and for years to follow. The result of this may be that the Seated half dollar was seldom targeted by counterfeiters in its early years, at least for die struck examples, because newspapers do not appear to clearly report pieces in circulation. It is not until January 1844 when one of the earliest reports of counterfeit Seated half dollars in circulation is reported.


I have just seen a new specimen of counterfeit half dollars of 1843. The external part is tin foil, and the filling is a soft sodder, which runs out immediately on holding the piece over the flame of a spirit lamp. These coins are on an average one third lighter than the genuine coins. The impression for the most part is a perfect fac simile of our die; being taken on some soft metal from a genuine coin.

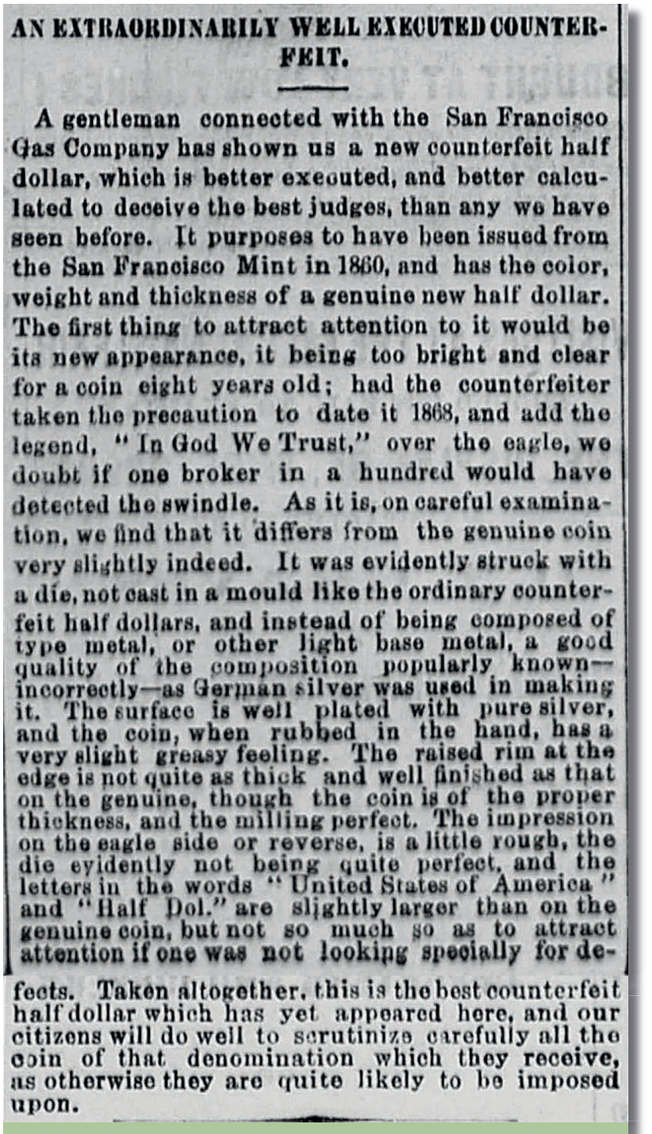
The Semi Weekly Mississippi Free Trader. January 10, 1844.

Throughout the 1840s and 1850s, there are countless reports of counterfeit half dollars in circulation and the arrest of their makers. Many of these are unclear as to their design, some clearly identify CBHs by date, while few clearly identify the Seated design by date. For those clearly referenced Seated halves, all or nearly all reports are of cast counterfeits and none as being distinctly die struck.

During the American Civil War and afterwards into the Reconstructionist era, from about 1861 to the early 1870s, half dollar counterfeiting appears to essentially cease east of the Mississippi River. Yet, with westward expansion and the mint in San Francisco, some half dollar counterfeiting was taking place in this region at this time. Most of the west-coast counterfeit halves were casts but some were likely die struck based on the varieties which still exist with S mintmarks. However, the identities of these counterfeiters, like so many others, appear to have been lost to time.

One notable report from the *Daily Alta California* dated August 16, 1868 very clearly describes one such counterfeit Seated half dollar dated 1860-S struck on a German silver planchet. This report is likely describing 1860/4-S Z1-L.

The post-Reconstructionist era saw a gradual and consistent resurgence in Seated half dollar

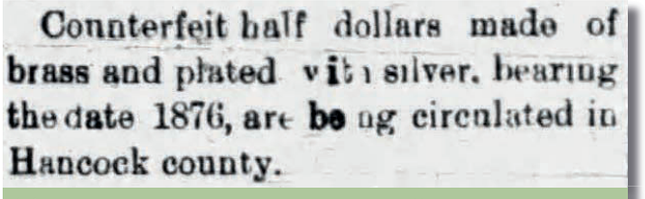

AN EXTRAORDINARILY WELL EXECUTED COUNTERFEIT.

A gentleman connected with the San Francisco Gas Company has shown us a new counterfeit half dollar, which is better executed, and better calculated to deceive the best judges, than any we have seen before. It purposes to have been issued from the San Francisco Mint in 1860, and has the color, weight and thickness of a genuine new half dollar. The first thing to attract attention to it would be its new appearance, it being too bright and clear for a coin eight years old; had the counterfeiter taken the precaution to date it 1868, and add the legend, "In God We Trust," over the eagle, we doubt if one broker in a hundred would have detected the swindle. As it is, on careful examination, we find that it differs from the genuine coin very slightly indeed. It was evidently struck with a die, not cast in a mould like the ordinary counterfeit half dollars, and instead of being composed of type metal, or other light base metal, a good quality of the composition popularly known—incorrectly—as German silver was used in making it. The surface is well plated with pure silver, and the coin, when rubbed in the hand, has a very slight greasy feeling. The raised rim at the edge is not quite as thick and well finished as that on the genuine, though the coin is of the proper thickness, and the milling perfect. The impression on the eagle side or reverse, is a little rough, the die evidently not being quite perfect, and the letters in the words "United States of America" and "Half Dol." are slightly larger than on the genuine coin, but not so much so as to attract attention if one was not looking specially for defects. Taken altogether, this is the best counterfeit half dollar which has yet appeared here, and our citizens will do well to scrutinize carefully all the coin of that denomination which they receive, as otherwise they are quite likely to be imposed upon.

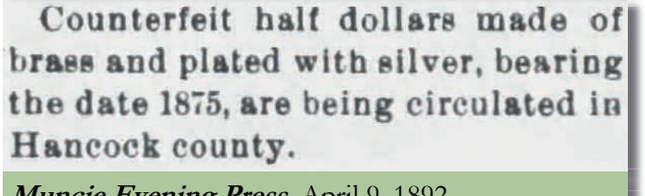
Daily Alta California. August 16, 1868.

counterfeiting from 1875 to 1878, but relatively nominal from 1879 to 1891 when genuine half dollar mintages were greatly reduced. Scores of operations are reported to come from states east of the Appalachian Mountains and generally north of the Mason-Dixon line. There was still a peppering of accounts along the Atlantic and Pacific coastal states, and a complete absence of accounts in those states bordering the Gulf of Mexico. Many of the arrests were single-person operations or small gangs of five or less people. The counterfeits themselves were generally crude cast pieces which could be quickly identified, while reports of die struck examples were essentially absent.

For a coinage history lasting more than 50 years, the die struck counterfeiting history is surprisingly minimal through 1891. However, in 1892, two reports are provided from the same day of brass planchet counterfeits dated 1876 and/or 1875, respectively. It is uncertain if there were two different dated pieces or a year error was made in one of the reports.

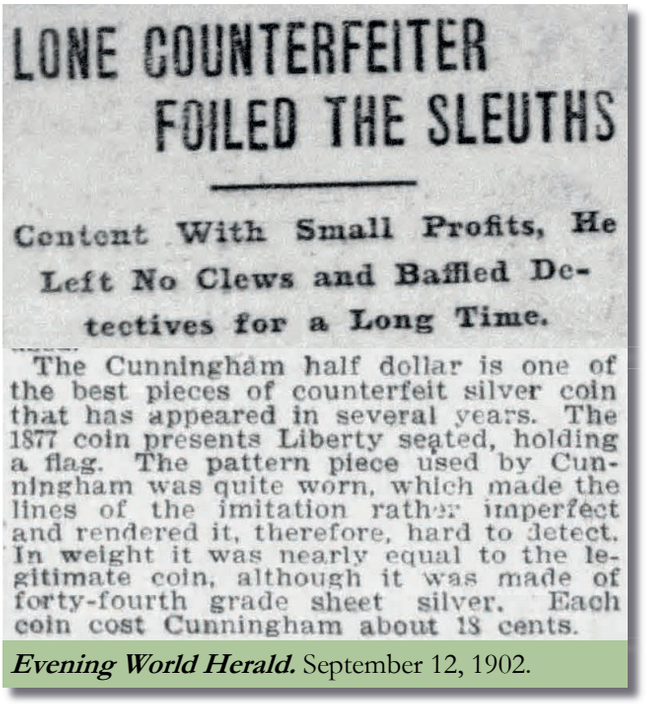

Counterfeit half dollars made of brass and plated with silver, bearing the date 1876, are being circulated in Hancock county.

The Muncie Morning News. April 9, 1892.


Counterfeit half dollars made of brass and plated with silver, bearing the date 1875, are being circulated in Hancock county.

Muncie Evening Press. April 9, 1892.

Ironically, one of the most prolific counterfeiters to be reported making die struck Seated half dollars did not start operating until 1899. A. S. Cunningham, a 60-year-old veteran of the Civil War and living in Chicago, was arrested on July 26, 1902 for making and passing 1877-dated halves, an enterprise he started in 1899. Upon his arrest and searching his home, the Secret Service found a total 17 steel dies for making 1877-dated half dollars and an unused pair of 1898-dated half dollar dies. The half dollars were said to be struck from a drop press using forty-fourth grade sheet silver planchets costing about 18 cents each to make. Over three years, Cunningham distributed up to $2,500 worth.


LONE COUNTERFEITER FOILED THE SLEUTHS

Content With Small Profits, He Left No Clews and Baffled Detectives for a Long Time.

The Cunningham half dollar is one of the best pieces of counterfeit silver coin that has appeared in several years. The 1877 coin presents Liberty seated, holding a flag. The pattern piece used by Cunningham was quite worn, which made the lines of the imitation rather imperfect and rendered it, therefore, hard to detect. In weight it was nearly equal to the legitimate coin, although it was made of forty-fourth grade sheet silver. Each coin cost Cunningham about 18 cents.

Evening World Herald. September 12, 1902.

It is nearly certain that most of the documented die struck counterfeit Seated half dollar varieties were made and circulated when the genuine pieces were made. However, it is puzzling that there are not more accounts, especially with adequate descriptions, of such pieces in circulation and/or of the counterfeiters being apprehended. Future research may uncover more of this information.

The Counterfeits

The half dollar was the standard U.S. silver denomination for the average American since large-scale production began in 1795. Half dollars circulated widely throughout the 19th and 20th centuries to accommodate larger transactions. The Seated design standardization also made it relatively easy for many people to identify questionable half dollars in circulation and report the threat to the press and authorities.

The half dollar denomination, especially being

large in value, made it a regular target be counterfeiters during the Seated era. The abundance of such a denomination in circulation offered a better chance for the counterfeits to slip in unnoticed, and yet the high value of the denomination and large planchet also led to greater scrutiny when compared to smaller denominations.

Casting was the most common way people involved in Seated half dollar counterfeiting produced pieces throughout the 19th century. It was the simplest, most flexible, potentially fastest, and most cost-effective counterfeiting option available compared to making die struck pieces. As a result, large-scale casting operations sprung up at this time often casting multiple denominations at a single time. The usually poor casting details and light-weight alloys made detection of casts in circulation relatively easy along with catching the counterfeiters

Although there were numerous people consistently involved in cast counterfeiting Seated half dollars, there were relatively few people and operations making die struck Seated halves. Based on documented and surviving die struck varieties, there are an almost equal proportion of hand-made die and transfer die struck varieties produced.

Pre-Civil War dated die struck varieties account for about 60% of the total. For transfer die counterfeits, 78% are pre-Civil War with the remaining 22% later. For hand-made dies, 48% are pre-Civil War, with the remaining 52% later. In terms of planchet alloys used, hand-made die varieties used German silver and billon planchets and rarely brass. In contrast, transfer die varieties used mostly brass planchets, seldom German silver, and none on billon. Among the hand-made die varieties, the crudest die work comes from this period when compared to later-dated varieties. Most of these varieties lack a mintmark, but New Orleans and San Francisco mints are represented. It is hypothesized that many of these varieties were produced during that same period although some post-Civil War newspaper accounts may suggest that some of these transfer die varieties were produced in the 1870s and 1880s.

During the Civil War era, only hand-made die struck varieties have been documented, accounting for about 22% of the total. Five of the six varieties have New Orleans or San Francisco mintmarks, with a single no-mintmark variety. The New Orleans mintmark varieties only date to 1861 potentially suggestive that they were made at the start of the Civil War. The three S mints were probably made in and around California, and are the only S-mint hand-made die varieties known. A mix of brass, German silver and billon planchets were used between the six varieties.

After the Civil War, and especially after the Reconstruction era, only 1875, 1876, 1877, and 1878 dated varieties are known. About 75% of these are hand-made die varieties relative to transfer dies. Nearly 75% of the varieties were struck on brass planchets while the balance were struck on German silver planchets. All the hand-made die varieties lack a mintmark while two of the three transfer dies have S mintmarks.

Only three counterfeiting families have been documented, all from hand-made die varieties, and these all seem to be small operations making just two or three varieties each. In total, only about 25% of the hand-made die varieties are associated with a family. In addition, it is likely that some of the transfer die varieties are related to a common counterfeiting operation but such an association has not yet been confidently established. In sum, this observation is in contrast to earlier half dollar counterfeiting operations along with smaller Seated denominations.

Despite an extensive documentary record and a moderate quantity of recorded die struck varieties, most die struck contemporary counterfeit Seated half dollar varieties are quite rare. The handful of relatively common varieties generally have high-quality die workmanship with details in clear relief. In contrast, varieties with crude die work or struck on base metal planchets (especially transfer die varieties) do not tend to survive in high quantities and may not have been mass produced.

Finally, most examples of die struck varieties are found with moderate to extensive wear even if made weakly struck at the time of manufacture to simulate wear. The wear observed on surviving die struck counterfeit Seated half dollars suggests that pieces circulated with some frequency regardless of the quality of die workmanship or planchet alloy. As such, it is quite difficult to find any surviving die struck counterfeit Seated half dollars in uncirculated to almost uncirculated condition.

Hand-Made Dies

Thirty-one hand-made, die struck counterfeit Seated half dollar varieties have been documented dating from 1833 to 1878. 1833 Z1-TD.A was made no earlier than 1853 because of the presence of the arrows next to the date. No varieties have been documented between 1879 and 1891 presumably because mintages during those years were very small. Given the current rarity of many varieties, it is likely new varieties will be documented over time.

Ten of these 31 varieties (32%) are associated with four different families. This is a lower rate of family relationship compared to Seated dimes (60%) and comparable to quarters (38%). This may suggest somewhat less interest in counterfeiting this denomination, especially given the small family sizes which is consistent with most of the dime and particularly quarter family sizes.

The overall population of surviving hand-made, die struck counterfeit Seated halves is currently fairly small. It is estimated that between 225 and 550 examples among all varieties still exist. Most varieties are known by five or fewer examples, while three varieties make up the majority of this surviving population at roughly equal rates, 1876 Z1-S, 1877 Z1-U, and 1878 Z1-X.

Since 2010, collectors have usually paid between $50 and $100 for an example, but some pieces have sold for as little as $10 and as much as $500. The cruder and scarcer varieties often demand the highest prices.

Meet the Families

Scared Eagle

The *Scared Eagle* family was named for the frightened look on the eagle's face. There are two documented varieties using two obverse dies dated 1854 and two reverse dies, each struck as die pairs.

Table 1.48. *Scared Eagle*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	Alloy
1854	1	E	Bi
1854	2	F	Bi(?)

A comparison of obverse 1 (top) and 2 (bottom).

Both varieties were or are estimated to be struck on billon planchets. Overall, the planchet dimensions and weight were fairly accurate, although maybe a little on the thin side at 1.9 mm. Both varieties have reeded edges.

Both varieties are rare. Less than five examples have yet been documented for each variety.

This operation was probably in production for a short period before the Civil War based on the few varieties and examples of the same known. However, the true origin of this operation is unknown at this time.

The eagle's faces have a frightened appearance.

Blob S

The *Blob S* family was named for the S-mintmarks which lack a clear separation between serifs and in turn look like blobs. There are two documented varieties using two obverse dies dated 1865 and two reverse dies, each struck as die pairs.

Both varieties were struck on German silver planchets. The planchet diameter is approximately accurate, however the thickness is low at about 1.75 mm, and the weights are 11.5 to 11.75 grams which is alright compared to a genuine example with advanced wear.

Both varieties are rare with only a single example yet documented for each. It is possible additional varieties were made by this counterfeiter that have not yet been documented.

Given the date and mintmark on these counterfeits, this operation was most likely producing these pieces in or around the San Francisco area; eastern die struck counterfeiting operations have not been documented during the Civil War. The origin of this operation is unknown at this time.

Table 1.49. *Blob S*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	Alloy
1865-S	1	Q	GS
1865-S	2	R	GS

The S-mintmarks lack clear separation between serifs and thus look like blobs.

Ostrich Neck

The *Ostrich Neck* family was named for the elongated neck on the eagle of reverse S. There are four documented varieties using three obverse dies dated 1876 and two reverse dies.

All four varieties were struck on brass planchets with excellent planchet dimensions. The planchet diameter ranges from 30.6 to 30.7 mm, and the thickness ranges from 2.0 to 2.2 mm. Planchet weight ranged from 11.6 to 12.4 grams largely influenced by planchet thickness.

1876 Z1-S is the most common, followed by Z2-T, while Z2-S and Z3-T are known by five or less examples.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits shortly after the Reconstruction era ended in 1875, when U.S. silver coinage flooded back into circulation, especially in the eastern states. Nevertheless, the origin of this operation is still unknown.

Table 1.50. *Ostrich Neck*

Date	Obv.	Rev.	Alloy
1876	1	S	Br
1876	2	S	Br
		T	Br
1876	3	T	Br

The elongated necks of both eagles on reverses S (left) and T (right).

Big Claw

The *Big Claw* family was named for the large eagle claw holding the olive branch. There are two documented varieties using two obverse dies dated 1876 and 1877 and one common reverse die.

Both varieties were struck on brass planchets. The planchet diameter is approximately accurate, however the thickness is variable between 2.10 and 2.30 mm, and the weights are between 12.3 and 13.3 grams which is on the heavier side compared to genuine Seated half dollars.

Both varieties are relatively common but 1877 Z1-U may be slightly more available. It is possible that this family may be associated with the *Ostrich Neck* family based on many shared die and planchet characteristics.

This operation was most likely producing counterfeits shortly after the Reconstruction era ended in 1875, when U.S. silver coinage flooded back into circulation, especially in the eastern states. Nevertheless, the origin of this operation is still unknown.

Table 1.51. ***Big Claw***

Date	Obv.	Rev.	Alloy
1876	4	U	Br
1877	1		Br

Irregular and elongated stars along with straight line from nose to forehead. Large claw holding the branch.

1833
Z1-TD.A

Obverse: Date and arrow devices were not used until 1853.
Reverse: The reverse originated from a transfer die whose details have since been enhanced, strengthened, and re-engraved in areas such as the eagle feathers, talons, and some of the lettering.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Brass	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Most examples have little or no silver plating showing. It is estimated at least 40 examples still exist.

1841
Z1-A

Obverse: Date is thin, high and close to Liberty. Stars are thin and linear.
Reverse: T1 and O2 are repunched north. Wide and long arrows. Eagle's head is large and close to the left-facing wing. Right-facing wing is short, broad, and far from AMERICA.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Example shown has a railroad rim.

1844
Z1-B

Obverse: Date is large. Liberty has a wide right shoulder and a short left shoulder. LIBERTY within the shield is nearly horizontal.
Reverse: Reverse letters are large with thin die elements. The eagle has a disproportionately robust left wing.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1844-O
Z2-Z

Obverse: Tall date. The vertical line is extended on the bottom-half of the 4s. Small stars. Small LIBERTY in the shield. Shorter left-facing shoulder than on the genuine.

Reverse: Small O mintmark. Pronounced tail feather details behind arrow feathers. The eagle's wings are more upright than on the genuine. No period after DOL.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass (95:5)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Medal turn.

Comments: First documented in 2025.

1845
Z1-C

Obverse: 5 in date is lower than the 184. Denticles are short and come to a sharp point.

Reverse: Lettering appears hand-engraved into the die, although the central eagle appears technically accurate.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1848 Z1-D

Obverse: Large date. Oversized 4. Second 8 tilted right. Small stars, mostly close to denticles. Several stars repunched. Right-facing shoulder, neck and head a straight edge.

Reverse: E missing in STATES and reads STATS. S2 boldly repunched and overlaps O in OF. Large C in AMERICA.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2023.

1854 Z1-E

Obverse: Date is disproportionately oversized. 12 large stars.

Reverse: Lettering is disproportionately large with each word running into the other creating UNITED-STATESOFAMERICA. Top arrowhead relatively close to A3. Shield is slanted right without vertical bars.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*Scared Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1854
Z2-F

Obverse:	Die line from left arrowhead to 1. 8 repunched right. Die line from 4 to right arrowhead. Star 1 lightly repunched.
Reverse:	Lettering is disproportionately large with each word running into the other creating UNITED-STATESOFAMERICA. Top arrowhead relatively far from A3. The eagle device was stamped into the die twice creating a double-impression of the inside portion of the wing on the right.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Reeded	*Scared Eagle* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1854
Z3-G

Obverse:	Date is large and crude, especially the 5. Arrows are short and especially close to the rim. Base of Liberty is especially wavy. The tips of the stars are rounded.
Reverse:	Crude, hand-engraved lettering. Words close together. Eagle and central devices appear relatively accurate albeit somewhat slightly inaccurate.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1856-O Z1-H

Obverse: Weak date and portrait details; these features might be the result of an original transfer die. Stars are imperfect. Denticles are relatively pointed rather than rounded.

Reverse: Imperfectly aligned lettering. S1 and S2 low . R and I distant. Arrow feathers are just curved lines. Large centering dot in the shield.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1858 Z1-I

Obverse: Date appears to the 1858, although the supposed digit '5' is incompletely visible. Date appears to be hand-engraved into the die with a skinny 1 and fat 858. Stars are small and hand-cut. Liberty is quite wide at the base, and has a very rounded extended arm.

Reverse: Hand-engraved. The eagle is extremely poorly imitated in every respect.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: This is probably the crudest hand-made, die struck counterfeit Seated half dollar variety.

1858
Z2-J

Obverse:	Tall, square, blobby numbers in date. Amorphous stars. Stars 1 to 6 and 13 small, and stars 7 to 12 large. Liberty is a raised outline lacking internal details. Spikey denticles
Reverse:	Peripheral lettering all runs together without distinct letters visible. The eagle is a raised outline lacking internal details. Spikey denticles.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: On the reverse, a striking error may be responsible for the lack of distinct lettering.

1858-O
Z3-K

Obverse:	Large, tall date. The 5 has a large inner curl. Evenly spaced although star 3 is slightly low and out of alignment. Star 9 is slightly far from the cap.
Reverse:	Lettering is slightly small. HALF DOL is close together and far the from the rim. A2 is close to the Eagle's right-facing wing. Arrow shafts are too long. O mintmark is slightly high. Pointy denticles.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1860/4-S
Z1-L

Obverse: Overdate with 1860/4. The remaining obverse appears technically accurate.
Reverse: Lettering thick. Diagonal die line connects ES in STATES. Repunched F and L2 in HALF DOL. Die lines at base of several letters.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: While less than 10 examples have been documented, it is estimated that more than 10 exist but potentially not more than 25.

1861-O
Z1-M

Obverse: Arrows are next to the date. Liberty is thin and scrawny. Stars are misshapen.
Reverse: Backwards N in UNITED. OFAMERICA close. AM slightly rotated away from each other. Single vertical lines for the shield pales. Elongated beak and leaves. Short and small arrows. Small mintmark.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass with high copper content	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: This is a remarkable counterfeit, and one of the author's favorites.

1861
Z2-N

Obverse: Small, high, distant arrows next to the date. Small, somewhat unevenly spaced stars. Liberty's head is undersized. The shield is featureless without pale or gule stripes.

Reverse: Lettering is slightly small. No spacing between words. UNITED and HALF DOL are far from the rim. Low O in OF. Raised die line right of A3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1861
Z3-O

Obverse: Inside loop of 6 thin and nearly touches top knob. Tops of both 1's appear slightly lower than 86.

Reverse: Banner and motto above Eagle which is incorrect in associated with this year. Base of ATE close to top of banner.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1861
Z4-Y

Obverse: 18 closer than 861. Stars 10 and 11 relatively wide while stars 12 and 13 relatively close. Wide spacing between denticles around star 1.

Reverse: LF touch at base and F below L. Serifs of UN touch at top. Base of TA and AMER joined. Denticles joined above ST and AT.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2025.

1863-S
Z1-P

Obverse: Large, crude date. The stars are very good. Liberty has a Muppet head. Raised line protruding from Liberty's right arm into the left field.

Reverse: HA and LF widely spaced. Large, high period after DOL. 'S' mintmark is rotated left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: The planchet alloy has a fairly high silver content.

1865-S
Z1-Q

Obverse: Devices well punched into the die. The bottom of the 8 in date dips below 1 and 6.
Reverse: Large, closely spaced, boxy letters in legend. Arrows are long and terminate about half way to A3. H made from two Is and a crossbar. HA touch at base.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	*Blob S* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1865-S
Z2-R

Obverse: Tall, slightly low date. Stars evenly spaced. Star 4 repunched.
Reverse: Large letters. Not much space between words. Faint S mintmark. End of top arrow in line with base of A3.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	*Blob S* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: One example is known dramatically double struck on both sides.

1876 Z1-S

Obverse: Large, tilted right 7 in date. Stars slightly wide. Liberty's portrait is well-defined.
Reverse: Back of eagle's neck rounded instead of being fairly flat. Eagle's wings are slightly wide. F slightly repunched. E in WE mostly below S2 instead of the left side of E2 on the genuine.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 20 and 40	Brass	Reeded	*Ostrich Neck* Family	**a)** Prime. **b)** **Obv.** die line above 8 in date. **c)** **Rev**. die crack at the top of TES OF.

Comments: None.

1876 Z2-S

Obverse: Large, tall date close to base of Liberty. Inside of 8 squared and pointed at the center. Large, tilted right 7.
Reverse: Back of eagle's neck rounded instead of being fairly flat. Eagle's wings are slightly wide. F slightly repunched. E in WE mostly below S2 instead of the left side of E2 on the genuine.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass (est.)	Reeded	*Ostrich Neck* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1876 Z2-T

Obverse: Large, tall date close to base of Liberty. Inside of 8 squared and pointed at the center. Large, tilted right 7.

Reverse: Narrow shield. Long, thin arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Brass	Reeded	*Ostrich Neck* Family	**a)** Prime. **b)** **Rev**. die crack from rim through HAL

Comments: None.

1876 Z3-T

Obverse: Base of 1 above base of 8. 7 in date upright. Star 1 further from Liberty than 1876 Z1-S and Z2-T. Stars 9 to 12 flat possibly as a result of the die state.

Reverse: Narrow shield. Long, thin arrowheads.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass (est.)	Reeded	*Ostrich Neck* Family	**a)** Prime. **b)** **Obv.** Shattered die thru date, Liberty and stars. **Rev**. die crack from rim through HAL.

Comments: None.

1876
Z4-U

Obverse: Star 1 boldly repunched.
Reverse: TA and RI nearly touch at base. Left-facing talon holding branch elongated and relatively far from the branch. Upper berry on branch leans left rather than upright on the genuine.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Brass	Reeded	*Big Claw* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: One example is known boldly double struck.

1877
Z1-U

Obverse: Wide 8. Liberty's neck is long. Stars are slightly long.
Reverse: TA and RI nearly touch at base. Left-facing talon holding branch elongated and relatively far from the branch. Upper berry on branch leans left rather than upright on the genuine.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 20 and 30	Brass; German silver (est.)	Reeded	*Big Claw* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** Rev. crack from rim below leaves through HAL to rim.

Comments: 1 example has been report as being struck on a German silver planchet.

1877 Z2-V

Obverse: Well-made die. Digits in date slightly small. Upper serif of 1 forms a wedge with the central upright rather than being squared-off.
Reverse: Well-made die. Enhanced lines in eagle behind arrow feathers.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1877 Z3-W

Obverse: Possibly a transfer die, otherwise details are very high quality.
Reverse: Missing scroll and motto above eagle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1877
Z4-AA

Obverse: Denticle directly below upright of 1. Horizontal shield lines slightly uneven. Lettering of LIBERTY squared. Star 12 has a short ray pointing down-right.

Reverse: Raised dot between right serifs of E. RI touch at base. The bottom of some vertical shield lines do not quite touch the shield border.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Silver alloy (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in 2025. Exceptional die work.

1878
Z1-X

Obverse: Tall, fairly evenly spaced date; 18 closer than 878. Thin, flat central crossbar on 8s. Stars and portrait well formed. Overall, this could me a modified transfer die.

Reverse: Moderately well-formed letters. HAL and OL in HALF DOL. widely spaced.. F leans left. Somewhat narrow As.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 20 and 30	Brass	Reeded	Singleton	**a)** Prime. **b)** **Rev.** die erosion below LF in HALF, in fields around leaves and HA, and within the U.

Comments: Very few examples exhibit most or all of their original silver plating. Example shown is lightly double struck, and two other examples are known with more pronounced double strikes.

Transfer Dies

Twenty-two counterfeit Seated half dollar transfer die varieties have been documented. Five have a New Orleans mintmark and six others have a San Francisco mintmark, likely representing the diversity of locations where counterfeiters were making these, in addition to the remaining varieties having no mintmark from Philadelphia. Alternatively, examples from those mint regions could have simply made their way to other parts of the country where they were copied.

The earliest transfer die counterfeit Seated half dollars were likely made during the Panic of 1837 era when German silver was still commonly used by counterfeiters. The only positively confirmed counterfeit transfer die Seated half dollar varieties struck on a German silver planchet is 1842 TD.1-TD.C and intriguingly for its later date, 1875-S TD.2-TD.R. However, 1841-O TD.1-TD.D and 1844 TD.1-TD.F were struck on white-metal planchets which may in fact be German silver. In contrast, the majority of the 1850s and 1870s dated varieties were struck on brass planchets, similar to the trend on counterfeit transfer die Seated dimes and quarters.

None of these varieties are known to share a die and there are no documented families. However, there are likely associations between many of the brass-planchet counterfeits to a common counterfeiting source. For example, some of the 1850s and 1870s-dated pieces, may have been made by the same counterfeiters. The trend in using brass planchets on transfer die counterfeits is found on Seated dimes and quarters, and this may signal a larger operation making multiple denominations.

Due to the nature of the transfer process, using host coins in varying circulated conditions, many transfer die varieties exhibit weaker and mushier details have the appearance of artificial wear. Additional time in circulation subsequently resulted in many transfer die counterfeit Seated half dollars being or appearing in well-worn condition.

Most transfer die counterfeit Seated half dollars have been acquired for $10 to $25, but some nicer examples have sold for as much as $150.

1841-O
TD.1-TD.B

Comments: Tops of UNITE connected possibly from a die crack. Planchet alloy unknown.

1842-O
TD.2-TD.D

Comments: No visible die markers. Estimated to be a brass planchet.

1842
TD.1-TD.C

Comments: Some denticles thin with wide spaces between them. German silver planchet alloy, and the example shows a poor alloy mix.

1843
TD.1-TD.E

Comments: Bottom two arrowheads and OL in DOL weak. Brass planchet.

1844
TD.1-TD.F

Comments: No visible die markers. Estimated to be a German silver planchet.

1845-O
TD.1-TD.V

Comments: No visible die markers. German silver planchet.

1848
TD.1-TD.G

Comments: No visible die markers. German silver planchet.

1853
TD.1-TD.H

Comments: No visible die markers. Brass planchet.

1854
TD.1-TD.I

Comments: Stars 1, 2 and 5 boldly repunched. Brass planchet.

1854-O
TD.2-TD.J

Comments: Larger obverse stars than on a genuine Seated half of the same year. Die crack through stars 10 to 13. Brass planchet.

1854-O
TD.3-TD.K

Comments: Regular sized stars. Die lump connects base of I and C. Brass planchet.

1856
TD.1-TD.W

Comments: Weak strike a wear does not reveal a die marker. Brass planchet.

1857
TD.1-TD.L

Comments: No visible die markers. Brass planchet.

1857
TD.2-TD.X

Comments: Strengthened and enlarged 5 in date. Lump of metal under A3. German silver planchet.

1858-S
TD.1-TD.M

Comments: Vertical die lines left of 1. Small dot between S-mintmark & right side of F. Brass planchet.

1858-S
TD.2-TD.N

Comments: Low date. Raised dot right of star 11. Mintmark rotated clockwise. Billon planchet.

1859
TD.1-TD.O

Comments: Weakly copied, struck and/or well-worn. Brass planchet.

1860-O
TD.1-TD.T

Comments: Reverse has 4 dots along denticles adjacent to far left leaves. Brass planchet.

1870-S
TD.1-TD.P

Comments: No visible die markers. Brass planchet.

1875
TD.1-TD.Q

Comments: Weakly copied, struck and/or well-worn. Brass planchet.

1875-S
TD.2-TD.R

Comments: Obverse denticles not visible and instead just a line. German silver planchet.

1875-S
TD.3-TD.U

Comments: Obverse denticles visible, but no other clear diagnostic markers. Brass planchet.

1876-S
TD.1-TD.S

Comments: No visible die markers. Brass planchet.

Casts

Cast counterfeit Seated half dollars are relatively common. Most varieties seen are known by just one verifiable example. However, a hoard of 1861-dated cast counterfeit half dollars was found in the Midwest in 2022 presumably made from the same mold.

Most examples seen were cast in white metal, while a low proportion have been seen in brass or other moderate to high copper-content alloys. Their quality ranges from poor to excellent, and there are quite a few examples extant of high-quality workmanship. Environmentally damaged Seated half dollars are occasionally misidentified as cast counterfeits. Due diligence should be conducted whenever possible to accurately attribute and authenticate a Seated half dollar.

The general availability of these cast counterfeits has allowed for sufficient pricing and value data. Most examples can be acquired for $5 to $15 each. However, higher-quality pieces may sell for $20 to $40.

1877-CC cast Seated half dollar counterstamped COUNTERFEIT and split in half, potentially intentionally so.

Barber

Authentic Coin Overview

1892-1915 • Philadelphia, New Orleans, San Francisco, Denver Mints

Barber half dollars were coined from 1892 to 1915. The Philadelphia and San Francisco mints coined them each year, whereas the New Orleans mint struck them from 1892 to 1909. The Denver mint also coined these starting in 1906 and continued most years through 1915 except for 1909, 1910, and 1914.

The Barber half dollar design was identical to the Barber quarter as designed by Charles E. Barber. The design, composition and weight remained the same during this 24-year period, a circumstance which had not previously occurred when the Capped Bust and Seated half dollar types were coined. Genuine coins were struck at a weight of 12.50 grams and examples could lose about 10% of that weight after heavy circulation.

This was a historic period for the U.S. mints in terms of the amount of seigniorage they collected from minting silver coins due to the price of silver plummeting between 1894 and 1915. All the mints tended to strike a million or more coins each year with the exception of 1913 and 1914. The highest mintage by a mint in any given year was from Philadelphia in 1899 when over 5.5 million were struck. However, this was still less than some mintages of Capped Bust and Seated half dollars where mintages on occasion topped 8 million.

Barber half dollars circulated as extensively as their quarter and dime counterparts largely as a result of the modest quantity of pieces minted relative to the population. As a result, many examples which survive today are found in well-worn condition, although plenty still exist in middle and higher grades all the way through gem uncirculated.

Barber Half Dollar (1892 to 1915)

The Counterfeiters

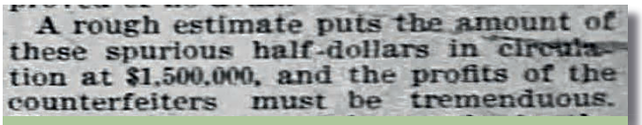
Two moulds for making counterfeit half-dollars were found today in the cell of William Brandon. Thirty half dollars were passed amongst the convicts on the Christmas holiday when they were given freedom of the yards. The counterfeit coins were made of babbitt metal believed to have been stolen from the prison supply house.
The Montgomery Advertiser, December 30, 1914

In 1892, when Barber coinage was first being minted, the value of silver was starting to fall. Initially they contained about 80% of the face value in silver content. A couple years later that value had dropped to about 60% of face value. Compounding this with the Panic of 1893, the greatest depression America had known, high unemployment rates made for an enticing vacuum for counterfeiters to exploit. And exploit they did!

Every year Barber halves were struck in the 1890s, hundreds of thousands of counterfeit half dollars were being made and circulated all across the country. The economic depression forced many people to take these drastic actions for survival. The vast majority of these pieces were casts of varying quality. Many were tin and lead, but others used alloys with aluminum, copper, and similar metals. Some counterfeits were silver-plated for an added appearance of authenticity.

By 1897 the effects of the Panic of 1893 were

starting to ease, although unemployment rates did not improve until 1899. The totality of the financial damage was widespread and apparent everywhere. While the popular saying since the 1880s was that American streets were "paved with gold", creating anticipation and excitement in the hearts of those seeking a better life, the reality was that it was littered with counterfeit coins. *The Charlotte Observer* and many other contemporary newspapers from 1897 estimated the scale of the counterfeit half dollar problem to be three million pieces in circulation, or one for every 23 people.


A rough estimate puts the amount of these spurious half-dollars in circulation at $1,500,000, and the profits of the counterfeiters must be tremenduous.

The Charlotte Observer. June 5, 1897.

Men, women and children were engaged in these activities. Many engaged in this activity out of necessity, creating these coins as emergency money because they were otherwise desperate and destitute as a result of the depression. Others joined the bandwagon out of greed, such as William Baldwin in 1896 who cast pieces while living in a hotel room (as later illustrated, below), thus compounding the issue. The rise and influence of organized crime was also involved to make a buck. One such individual was 'Little Pete', the King of Chinatown in San Francisco, who was one of the few Chinese Americans in the 19th century documented as being engaged in such undertakings. More about Little Pete follows below.

Forepaugh-Sells Brothers' Circus Scandal

The 1890s was an era of maturing expansion and establishment of towns and cities across the heartland and bread basket of the midwestern U.S. Public entertainment in these areas was relatively limited and local, except when the circus came to town. The most famous circus of the 1890s was that of Barnum & Bailey. However, they were performing in Europe between 1897 and 1902 leaving a welcome void for other circuses to capitalize on this domestic entertainment sector. One of these was the Forepaugh-Sells Brothers' Circus which was briefly embroiled in a counterfeit half dollar scandal in the summer of 1898.

First reported on August 2, 1898 out of Pittsburg, Kansas were accounts of counterfeit half dollars being circulated at the same time this circus came to town. Initially, this was treated as a coincidence, the thinking being that counterfeiters and shovers were using the circus as a venue to circulate these coins amongst amidst all the

Dayton Daily News. June 11, 1916.

Counterfeit Money Circulates.

Special to the Kansas City Times.

Pittsburg, Kan., Aug. 2.—Since Saturday morning several more counterfeit half dollars have been put in circulation in this city, and the police are beginning to believe that instead of their presence being due to the visit of Sells Bros.' & Forepaugh's circus, that there must be some person or persons here acting as the agents of counterfeiters. This town and Joplin seem to have been operated in by these agents at the same time. The merchants are going to use extra vigilance in the future in the hopes of detecting them.

The Kansas City Times. August 3, 1898.

excitement and activity.

As the weeks went by more and more counterfeit half dollars kept showing up wherever this circus was performing.

KANSAS AND KANSANS.

Sells Bros.' circus has left a trail of counterfeit half dollars in its wake through Kansas.

The Kansas City Times. August 13, 1898.

It did not take long before the Sells Brothers' circus manager made a public statement denying that the circus had received any counterfeit half dollars and dollars and claiming that their circus was not responsible. Whether this statement was true or made to bolster the circus' public image appears to have been lost to history. Following this statement, the incident seems to lose its circus association.

Counterfeit Barber half dollars continued to be made through the beginning of the 20th century. Reports were nearly universally of cast pieces, light in weight or too thick in. In 1902, the father and son Ferguson outfit out of Butler County, Missouri was one such well-publicized operation. The Ferguson's ran a machine and repair shop which also acted as their counterfeiting plant for making quarters and half dollars. The quarters were made of copper and stamped while the half dollars were cast in molds. Only a few dozen counterfeits were found on the premises.

The manager of Sells Brothers' circus has denied most emphatically the statement going the rounds of the press that it has left a trail of counterfeit half dollars in its wake. "The testimony of the treasurer of the circus is offered to prove that Kansas is remarkably free at this time of counterfeit silver money. "We have not seen a counterfeit dollar since we entered Kansas," the treasurer says. If a circus treasurer has not seen a counterfeit dollar during his tour of the state there is none in circulation. People save their counterfeit money to beat the circus folks, but a circus ticket wagon is the hardest place on earth to work a flim-flam game.

The Kansas City Times. August 20, 1898.

MARTIN FERGUSON,
Ex-Treasurer of Butler County, Missouri.

WILLIAM FERGUSON,
Alias Walter E. Fields.

The St Louis Republic. November 22, 1902.

By 1930, 15 years after Barber half dollars had stopped being minted, reports of counterfeit Barber half dollars being circulated had all but stopped. The latest report found comes from the January 25, 1929 edition of the *Morning Sentinel* where pieces dated 1900 and 1906 were found.

'Little Pete' King of Chinatown

One of the more influential people in the San Francisco area in the 1880's and especially the 1890's was Fung Jing Toy, sometimes transliterated as Fong (of Fung) Ching, and known by the nickname 'Little Pete'. Little Pete's short life (1864-1897), especially as an adult, is well-documented and reads like a movie script. Born in Canton, China, he emigrated to the U.S. around 1878. He was smart and ambitious, and quickly learned English. Pete grew accustomed to American culture, was well-groomed and polite, but also amoral. By the 1890's he was the leader of the Som Yop Tong gang during the Tong war period in San Francisco's Chinatown. He was considered the 'King of Chinatown' and a 'boss among bosses'.

Fong Ching, aka 'Little Pete' (photo circa 1895).

Pete made such a large fortune that some claim he was the wealthiest Chinese-American of his time, potentially the first Chinese-American millionaire. He first owned a shoe business, then opened several gambling dens, importing opium (and likely other goods), and with the proceeds hired foot soldiers for his gang. He also imported more than 100 Chinese girls as 'actresses, singing girls and waitresses' (*San Francisco Call*, 24 December 1895) but instead forced them into the slave-girl prostitute trade. In addition, he started bribing jockeys as well as police and judges, amid many more ventures. Yet, none of the information reviewed described Little Pete's purported involvement in the U.S. coin counterfeiting trade.

In 1895, at the height of Little Pete's power, influence and wealth, his ambition appears to have broadened into the U.S. coin counterfeiting trade. His scheme, in coordination with Leong Nam, head of a troupe of Chinese actors coming to America to perform at the Atlanta Exposition, took advantage of the low price of silver. He exported tons of silver to China having some of it coined into 1895-dated half dollars. Each counterfeit half dollar was said to have about 25 cents worth of silver, or 884 fine (instead of the genuine at 900 fine).

The counterfeit half dollars, 20,000 of which were purportedly made, at least initially, were imported to San Francisco in the summer of 1895 by the 40 Chinese actors. The coins were then taken to Chinatown and quickly disbursed across the city and beyond. The quality of the coin was so good that they did not seem to get noticed until the Spring of 1896 when Secret Service Agent Nicholas Harris declared they are the "best counterfeit half dollar that was ever produced". "The most noticeable defect in this stamping is that the ear in the head of the goddess is scarcely dented, while on the good coin the dent is quite deep." (*The Philadelphia Times*, June 21, 1896). By the Spring of 1896, pieces had traveled at least as far as Tacoma, Washington, and by June 1897 to the east coast.

On January 24, 1897 Little Pete, while sitting in a barber shop around 9:10 PM, was assassinated by two rival See Yup society of Highbinders gang members. It is unclear if the killers were ever caught.

No example of these apparently abundant counterfeit 1895 half dollars has yet been documented by the author.

The Counterfeits

Hand-Made Dies

Six different varieties of hand-made, die struck counterfeit Barber half dollars have been documented dating from 1890 to 1915-D. Two of these six varieties are associated with one family while the remaining four are singletons. This demonstrates that few people were involved in counterfeiting this coin from hand-made dies and there were no large operations other than Little Pete's from which no examples have surfaced.

The overall population of surviving hand-made, die struck counterfeit Barber half dollars is currently fairly small. Less than 30 examples have been documented at the time of this publication, and it is estimated that less than 100 examples between all varieties exist. Currently, all varieties are known by five or fewer examples but no extensive and long-term data collection or census has occurred.

This author is unaware of any numismatists seriously collecting counterfeit hand-made, die struck Barber half dollars by variety before the year 2010. This is due to the rarity of each variety and the lack of any publication on this subject documenting the scope of what was made.

This author has not identified any auction records or other public sales information about these pieces before 2015. Since then, individual examples have been acquired for $30 to $300, with the cruder, scarcer, and/or family varieties demanding the highest prices overall.

Meet the Family

1898 Half Dollar

The *1898 Half Dollar* family has two known varieties dated 1898. Two obverse and two reverse dies were involved in their creation. Upon close inspection, the overall die workmanship is easily distinguished from a U.S. mint product. At a quick glance, these would not easily be detected.

Only a single example of each variety has been documented at the time of publication but it is likely other examples and potentially varieties exist. Both varieties were struck on planchets comparable in quality to their genuine counterparts. The alloy was sterling silver, or at least high-grade silver, with a weight range of 12.0 and 12.5 grams, and a slightly larger diameter ranging between 30.6 and 30.9 mm. Only 1890 Z1-A comes closer to matching a genuine Barber half dollar planchet.

Raised spaces between vertical shield lines.

Table 1.52. ***1898 Half Dollar***

Date	Obv	Rev	Alloy
1898	1	B	SS
1898	2	C	SS

It is uncertain where and when these counterfeits were made. The high-grade silver planchets suggest these were made by a gang of New York sterling silver counterfeiters at the turn of the century, but this is simply a hypothesis by the author. The use of high-grade silver suggests that they were made when the price of silver was low.

Two distinctive styles of date.

1890
Z1-A

Obverse: Fantasy date oriented left of center. Letters rounded. UST thin. Stars flat and lacking details.
Reverse: Eagle feather & shield details flat. Ends of leaves rounded. Stars slightly small. Large centering dot.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	95% Silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: The example shown was acquired by Kenneth Rothschild in the early 1960s in the Bronx, New York while in high school. Thinking this date was special, he held onto it for decades. At the 1997 ANA Convention in NYC no dealers could explain this piece. In 2022, Mr. Rothschild realized it was a counterfeit coin and, as he said, his dreams of riches quickly vanished.

1898
Z1-B

Obverse: Large, fairly evenly spaced date. Well spaced, nearly symmetrical stars. Star 10 boldly repunched, and star 8 exhibits minor repunching. Motto and portrait fairly well made.
Reverse: Reverse. F and A2 in HALF DOLLAR repunched. Both Ls in DOLLAR missing their top-left serif. Eagle is holding 12 arrows instead of 13.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	*1898 Half Dollar* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev.** die crack from E1 in UNITED to left half of wing.

Comments: Probably made by a gang of New York sterling silver counterfeiters at the turn of the century.

1898
Z2-C

Obverse: Large, low, unevenly spaced date. 89 lean right. D and W repunched in motto. Stars are not symmetrical. Stars 1 and 2 close compared with stars 2 and 3.

Reverse: Star 6 repunched. Long lower serif of C. Short I in PLURIBUS.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	*1898 Half Dollar* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Probably made by a gang of New York sterling silver counterfeiters at the turn of the century.

1902
Z1-D

Obverse: Extremely poor hand-engraved die elements. Digits in date are unevenly sized and oriented. IN GOD WE TRUST is indistinct. N is backwards in the word IN.

Reverse: Extremely poor hand-engraved die elements. Words are indistinct. Skinny eagle and associated die elements.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 10	Brass	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Some numismatists have debated whether this was really made as a counterfeit given how extremely crude the die work is while also being struck on a brass planchet.

1903
Z1-E

Obverse: Thin stars. Short laurel leaves at TR. Deep hair lines at forehead.
Reverse: Less wing feathers overlapping both Es. Arrow under C stops in the middle of C whereas on the genuine it is on the left side. Slightly small Motto banner. Shelf doubling.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	95% Silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Very high quality die work. This example is counterstamped COUNTERFEIT in an arc.

1915-D
Z1-F

Obverse: Date low, close to denticles. Bottom knob of 5 fully beneath the upright. Small O in GOD. Boldly engraved LIBERTY. Star 13 wide. Denticles indistinct.
Reverse: Feathers flat. Bold shield lines. Boldly engraved E PLURIBUS UNUM. D mintmark close to tail feathers. Denticles indistinct.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	German silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

Transfer Dies

At the time of this publication, 20 different transfer die counterfeit Barber half dollar varieties have been documented. Three varieties do not have a branch mint mintmark. This is in contrast to hand-made dies where only one variety has a mintmark. A dozen varieties were struck on brass planchets, and most are dated to the 20th century. One variety, 1915-S TD.2-TD.R was uniquely struck on a low carbon steel planchet. The remaining varieties were struck on various white metal alloy planchets, such as German silver and higher-grade silver planchets.

The only confirmed historical documentation found of brass transfer die counterfeit Barber half dollars comes from a May 4, 1917 article in *The Buffalo Commercial*. A follow-up report identifies the pieces being dated 1906.

Given how exceptional in quality the China-made, 1895-dated, silver planchet counterfeit was described in the press, this variety was likely a transfer die. This variety was described as having the "ear in the head of the goddess is scarcely dented at all, while on the good coin the dent is quite deep" (*The Philadelphia Times*. 21 June 1896). No examples have yet been reported.

Most varieties and examples exhibit details in the good to very good range which is common amongst transfer die counterfeits. Nicer detailed examples, especially with silver plating, are rarer.

A couple counterfeit examples, and at least one genuine coin, are known with counterstamps such as BAD or COUNTERFEIT, as shown below. These were likely applied by banks, merchants, the treasury, or the secret service.

One family, *Brass Bandit*, was identified based on a shared reverse die. Future research may reveal other brass planchet varieties being associated with this family, or a separate family.

Auction records or other public sales information for any of these varieties before 2010 has not been identified or thoroughly investigated. Since then, individual examples have been acquired for $5 to $100, with brass planchet varieties selling for less than white metal varieties.

Genuine 1894-S counterstamped BAD. This piece may have received this stamp due to the rough surfaces probably caused by fire damage.

1906-S TD.1-TD.F counterstamped BAD.

Meet the Family

Brass Bandit

The *Brass Bandit* family has two known varieties dated 1911-D and 1912-D. Two obverse and a common reverse die were used to create these varieties. Both reverse dies are identified by at least two small raised dots in the field above the second U in UNUM. All examples were struck on brass planchets and were silver plated; the plate examples still show remnants of that silvering.

It is uncertain where and when this counterfeiting operation took place. The Denver mintmark may be a geographic clue, or it could just be the circumstance of the host coin. The use of brass planchets may be indicative of a time period when silver prices started rising again, such as between 1915 and 1919.

Finally, given the relative preponderance of brass planchet transfer die counterfeit Barber half dollars, it may be found that other documented examples were made by this same counterfeiter.

Table 1.53. ***Brass Bandit***

Date	Obv	Rev	Alloy
1911-D	TD.4	TD.I	Br
1912-D	TD.1		Br

Two raised lumps above U in UNUM (circled).

1892-S
TD.1-TD.A

Comments: Two raised dots within the O of DOLLAR. Brass planchet.

1893-O
TD.1-TD.B

Comments: Example shown is double struck and a mis-aligned obverse die. Brass planchet.

1899-S
TD.1-TD.C

Comments: Reverse die crack from E2, thru eagle and terminating thru A in HALF. Obverse indent by star 12 common. German silver planchet.

1901-S
TD.1-TD.D

Comments: Odd date and S mintmark shapes. Medal turn. Sterling silver alloy planchet.

1902-S
TD.1-TD.E

Comments: No distinguishing die features to report. Brass planchet.

1903-O
TD.1-TD.J

Comments: No distinguishing die features to report. Copper planchet.

1906-S
TD.1-TD.F

Comments: Reverse raised dot between ER and rim. Two examples seen with cracked planchets. One example is counterstamped BAD. Brass planchet.

1906-S
TD.2-TD.L

Comments: Reverse raised metal spike from rim between CA in AMERICA. Brass planchet.

1909-D
TD.1-TD.Q

Comments: No visible obverse die markers. Raised bubbles on the underside of the left-facing wing and some lettering. Estimated to be a coin silver planchet.

1911
TD.1-TD.G

Comments: Obverse die crack at top of Liberty and thru WE TRUST. Reverse die cracks near base and left side, along with raised die lines. Brass planchet.

1911
TD.2-TD.H

Comments: Damaged outside curve of D in DOLLAR, several smaller raised dots, and later die state dot between AR. Brass planchet.

1911
TD.3-TD.M

Comments: Obverse dot between base of 1 and 1. Reverse die crack at lower, outer part of branch leaves. Brass planchet.

1911-D
TD.4-TD.I

Comments: Obverse dot between 9 and 1. Reverse has two raised lumps above the 2nd U in UNUM. *Brass Bandit* family. Brass planchet.

1911-D
TD.5-TD.S

Comments: Flat details, but no distinguishing die features to report. Billon planchet.

1912-D
TD.1-TD.I

Comments: Obverse raised dot right of N in IN. Reverse has two raised lumps above the 2nd U in UNUM. *Brass Bandit* family. Brass planchet.

1912-D
TD.2-TD.N

Comments: Raised dot between stars 5 and 6. Raised metal on left edge of star 13. Brass planchet.

1912-O
TD.3-TD.K

Comments: Fantasy date and mintmark combination. Unknown white metal planchet.

1914-D
TD.1-TD.O

Comments: Obverse rim crumbling on the right. Reverse heavy crack at rim over HALF, and a lighter crack through I1. 95% silver planchet.

1915-D
TD.1-TD.P

Comments: No distinguishing die features to report. Brass planchet.

1915-S
TD.2-TD.R

Comments: No distinguishing die features to report. Low carbon steel planchet—first of its kind!

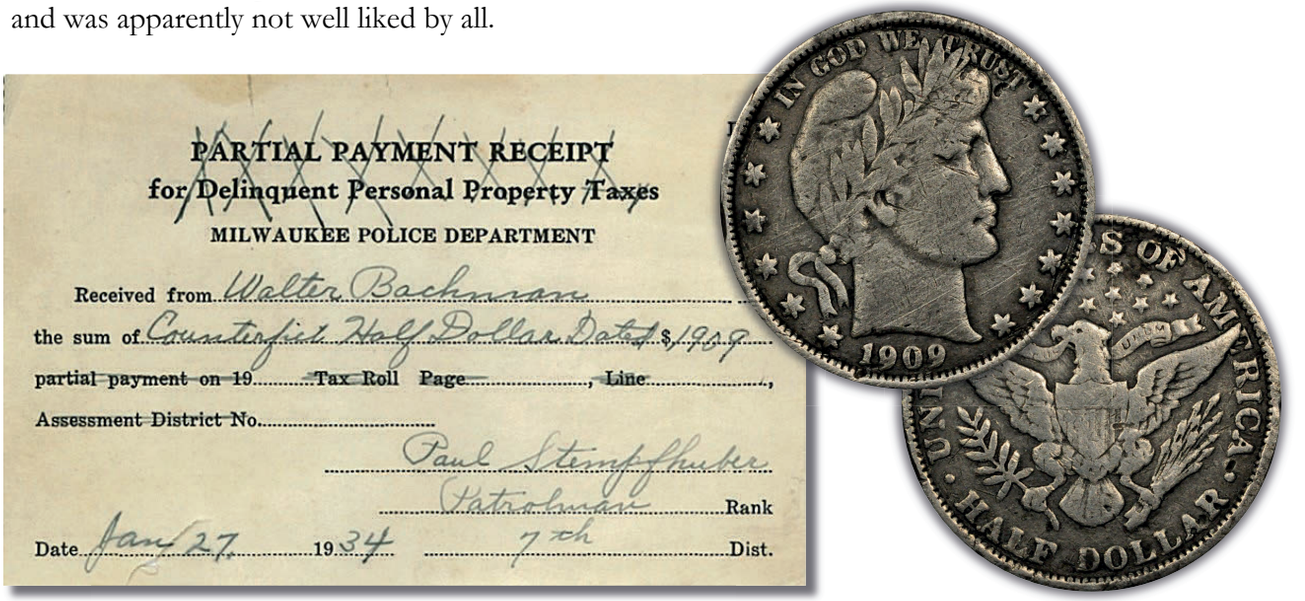
Casts

Cast counterfeit Barber half dollars are fairly common with most dates and mintmarks seen. Nearly all examples seen were cast in white metal, while a low proportion have been seen in brass. Their quality is usually fairly poor, which is common for casts, but on some occasions the quality can be very good. Environmentally damaged Barber half dollars are occasionally misidentified as cast counterfeits. Due diligence should be conducted whenever possible to accurately attribute and authenticate a Barber half dollar.

Few examples are found counterstamped, especially those noting their lack of authenticity. An intriguing example is shown on the right which reads AS REAL AS WILSON. This was in reference to both this example lacking authenticity and a political statement about Woodrow Wilson who was then president from 1913 to 1921 and was apparently not well liked by all.

The general availability of these cast counterfeits has allowed for sufficient pricing and value data. Most examples can be acquired for $5 or less, but higher-quality pieces may sell for as much as $10 to $25.

Cast counterfeit 1915-D Barber half dollar counterstamped AS REAL AS WILSON.


PARTIAL PAYMENT RECEIPT
for Delinquent Personal Property Taxes
MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Received from Walter Bachman

the sum of Counterfeit Half Dollar Date $ 1909

partial payment on 19 Tax Roll Page , Line ,

Assessment District No.

Paul Stempfhuber

Patrolman Rank

Date Jan 27 1934 7th Dist.

Milwaukee police department report dated January 27th, 1934 from Walter Bachman turning in a 1909-dated counterfeit Barber half dollar, likely cast and similar to the example shown.

Walking
Liberty

Authentic Coin Overview

1916-1947 • Philadelphia, San Francisco, Denver Mints

Walking Liberty half dollars (WLH) were coined from 1916 to 1947. These were coined somewhat inconsistently especially during the 1930s, at Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver mints.

The WLH produced by the branch mints in 1916 and partially in 1917 had the obverse mintmark below the date. Later in 1917 the mintmark was changed to the reverse near the edge at 8 o'clock. The composition and weight remained the same during the coins' 42-year period. Genuine coins were struck at a weight of 12.50 grams and examples could lose about 10% of that weight after heavy circulation.

This was another historic period for the U.S. mints in terms of the amount of seigniorage they collected from minting silver coins due to the value of silver being low between 1920 and the early 1940s. All the mints struck about a million or more coins each year except for 1921 when mintages were much lower. The largest mintage came from Philadelphia in 1943 where more than 53 million were coined.

WLHs circulated as extensively as their quarter and dime counterparts. This was largely the result of a growing population and modest mintages before 1940. Mintages ballooned starting in 1940 resulting in many more examples showing less wear from extensive circulation.

Walking Liberty Half Dollar (1916 to 1947)

Obverse mintmark

Reverse mintmark

The Counterfeiters

The shooting and killing...of Joseph and Baptiste Vultaggio, brothers in an apartment...was the result of a quarrel over money obtained through making of counterfeit half dollars on the premises. In an examination of the apartment the policeman found a number of counterfeit half dollars...and a loaded 45-calibre pistol.
Times Union, May 12, 1920.

Based on newspaper reports and other records dating between 1916 and 1929, there does not appear to have been substantial counterfeiting of the WLH or the earlier Barber and Seated half dollar types. Favorable economic conditions, easy money from banks, and the U.S. involvement in World War I were likely contributors to this.

However, starting in 1930, when the full effect of the stock market crash and associated depression kicked-in, the quantity of reports of half dollar counterfeiting, notably of casts, became much more pronounced and extensive. This pattern of half dollar counterfeiting during adverse economic conditions is consistent with similar circumstances observed over the prior century.

Photojournalism in the 1930s truly started revolutionizing the documentation of counterfeiting culture across all spectrums of society. The

counterfeiters were the main individuals to be exposed and shamed, but not exclusively.

On August 29th, 1935 Secret Service agents raided and arrested Harry Kritzke of Chicago (stand-ing in a black suit on the left in the picture below). Kritzke was charged with manufacturing counterfeit silver-dipped steel half dollars with his self-made counterfeiting machine said to be worth a staggering $25,000. Several agents can be seen in the photo dismantling the machine.

Daily News. August 30, 1935.

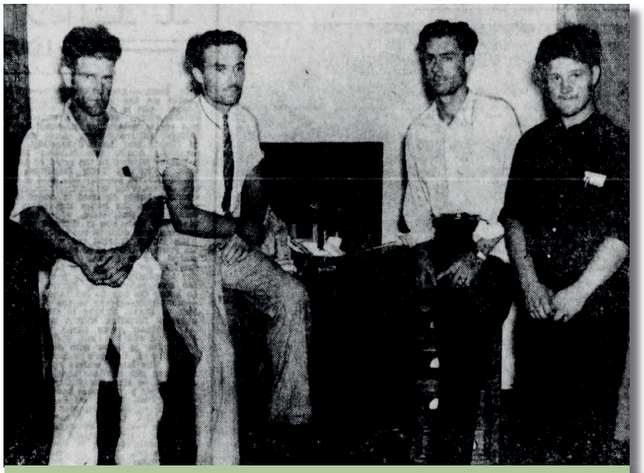
A month later, Ray Hauser and Glenn Ilgenfritz from Cedar Rapids, Iowa were arrested after the discovery of a modest cast counterfeit half dollar operation by local police (see illustration below).

The Gazette. September 19, 1935.
Counterfeit coins, babbitt metal, a melting ladle, graphite, rubber cement, cleaning solution, parts of a broken mould, and other accessories are shown right.

A year later, in 1936, a similar enterprise was exposed in Detroit, Michigan, as reported in *The Pittsburgh Press*. This resulted in the arrest of Allen Ledwig, Curtis Hirth and a woman (not shown in the picture below).

The Pittsburgh Press. November 27, 1936.

On July 7, 1937 a group of four counterfeiters, shown in the photo below, were arrested for making and passing cast counterfeit half dollars in Adams County, Ohio.



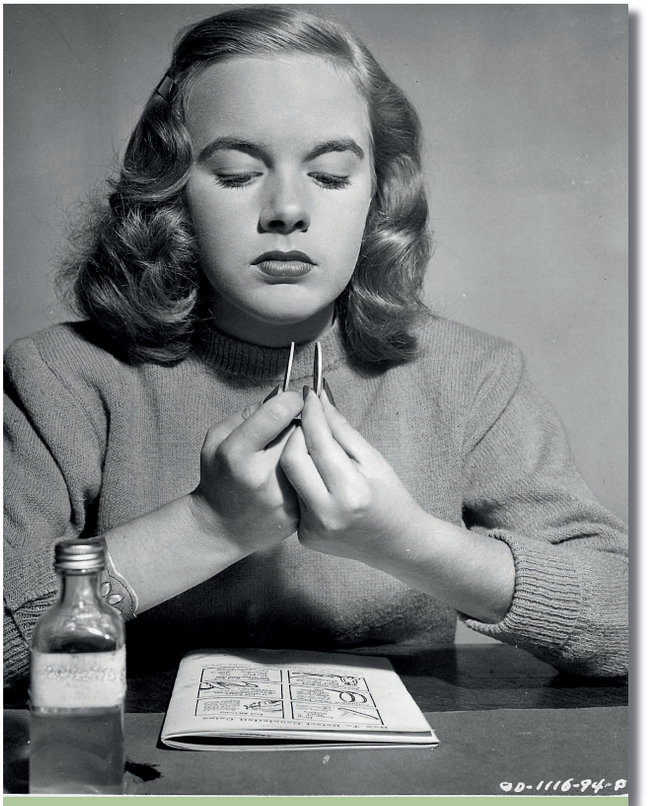
The Cincinnati Enquirer. July 8, 1937.

It was not just the counterfeiters who were photographed and published in newspapers but so too were their victims and others portrayed as involved in counterfeit detection.

Take the story of 11-year-old newspaper boy, Alfred Aguirre, from Los Angeles who is iconically biting a counterfeit WLH in 1933. Alfred received the counterfeit from two men who drove up to the newsstand and gave the coin as payment for a newspaper. After producing change, Alfred bit into the coin and realized it was not genuine. The two men fled but Alfred got the license number and reported the incident to the secret service who were on the trail of this case at the time.

ACME Newspictures, Inc. August 26, 1933.

In preparation for her role in the 1946 movie *Shadowed*, Hollywood actress Terry Moore (shown) and other cast members were taught how to test and detect counterfeit coins, such as the coins being held. Both visual examinations and chemicals, such as silver nitrate and nitric acid, were used in these tests. It is worth noting that these press photos were taken under direct supervision of secret service agents.



Terry Moore. Columbia Pictures movie '*Shadowed*'.

Two notably large counterfeit half dollar operations were uncovered in 1942, along with dozens of smaller operations during this decade.

The first of these was Edwin Manning's mint located in the cellar of his home at 246 Landon St., Buffalo, New York. Manning used a 200-ton press to strike silver blanks from five sets of 2-inch-thick steel dies with the impression of the

The Buffalo News. March 14, 1942.

half dollar. His mint had been operating for four years before it was stopped; this coincides with when he lost his job as a chemical engineer at a wholesale chemical plant in 1938. In July of 1942 he was sentenced to 27 months in a federal penitentiary for this crime. Unfortunately, specific details about these struck counterfeits have not yet been identified to link Manning's coins to any documented counterfeit half dollars.

The second operation was reported in the summer of 1942 whereby shovers passed pieces across the U.S., starting from New England and ending in Los Angeles. An estimated 50,000 pieces were dispersed in a matter of weeks. No information was found identifying that the counterfeiters were caught.

50,000 Counterfeit Half Dollars Loosed

Fort Worth Star Telegram. September 4, 1942.

The Counterfeits

Hand-Made Dies

Nine different varieties of hand-made, die struck counterfeit WLHs have been documented dating from 1917 to 1942-S. Six of these varieties are associated with three families, *Fat Motto, Mesquite*, and *Guatemala* while the remaining three are singletons. Overall, this demonstrates that few people were involved in counterfeiting this coin from hand-made dies and large operations were rare.

We do not yet know when and where either family operation occurred. Based on the dates of the counterfeits there is one hypothesis these were made in the 1920s. An alternative hypothesis is that these were made during the Great Depression of the 1930s when the value of silver was at its historical lowest. In contrast, the two singletons were probably made a little later, such as the early 1940s.

The overall population of surviving hand-made, die struck counterfeit WLHs is currently fairly small. It is estimated that between 100 and 200 examples among all varieties still exist. Currently, all varieties are known by 15 or fewer examples, and 1921 Z1-A is currently the most common variety. However, no extensive data collection or census has occurred.

This author is unaware of numismatists seriously collecting counterfeit hand-made, die struck WLHs by variety before the year 2000. This is due to the rarity of each variety and the lack of any publication on this subject documenting the scope of what was made until now.

Auction records or other public sales information for any of these varieties before 2000 is rare. Since then, individual examples have been acquired for $30 to $400, with the cruder, scarcer, and/or family varieties demanding the highest prices overall.

Meet the Families

Fat Motto

The *Fat Motto* family has two known varieties dated 1917 & 1921. Two obverse and a common reverse die were used to create these two varieties. Both obverse dies were created from a master hub with the date being added after hubbing.

Table 1.54. ***Fat Motto***

Date	Obv	Rev	Alloy
1917	1	A	Coin silver
1921	1		Coin silver

The quality of die workmanship was very good, with all examples exhibiting a reasonable amount of wear indicating that most people would not give these pieces a close inspection for authenticity. All pieces studied were struck on 1.7 to 1.8 mm thick sterling silver planchets weighing 11.4 to 11.9 grams with densities ranging from 9.06 and 9.33 and volumes ranging from 1,230 to 1,310 mm^3.

It is hypothesized that this operation was producing these counterfeits during the 1929 to 1939 depression era. This was a time when the price of silver bullion was relatively low and people were desperate for money. However, the location of this operation cannot be more closely identified at this time.

It would not be surprising if other varieties associated to this family are eventually identified given the relatively high-quality of the die work, and the low grade these pieces were made to simulate. In addition, no extensive investigation of this series has been conducted to try and identify if additional and associated counterfeit WLH varieties exist.

The letters IN GOD are thick.

The pine stem goes to the middle of the B rather than extending to the right side on genuine examples.

Mesquite

The *Mesquite* family has three known varieties dated 1919, 1920 and 1927. Three obverse and two reverse dies were used to create these varieties, all of which are rare. The quality of die workmanship was poor and examples should have been quickly spotted in circulation. The B reverse eventually shattered on 1920 Z1-B creating some dramatic die cracks.

All pieces studied were struck on 1.8 to 1.9 mm thick sterling silver planchets consistently weighing about 11.8 grams.

This operation was producing counterfeits during the depression era, a time when the price of silver bullion was relatively low and people were desperate for money. An example of 1920 Z1-B is documented as being removed from circulation in New York City (NYC) in 1934. NYC was historically at the center of counterfeiting U.S. coins from hand-made dies using silver planchets. Yet, at this time no direct evidence has been located to identify these counterfeiters.

Table 1.55. *Mesquite*

Date	Obv	Rev	Alloy
1919	1	B	SS
1920	1		SS
1927	1	C	SS

Reverse C (left) looks more like a mesquite tree than the pine stem on the genuine (right).

1920 Z1-B terminal die state.

Guatemala

The *Guatemala* family has two known varieties, both dated 1920 whereby the quarter has a S-mintmark and the half dollar does not. This family was named because an example of 1920-S Z1-A quarter is known struck over an 1835 Guatemala 2 reales and the 1920 Z2-G half is known struck over an 1865 Guatemala 4 reales. This likely suggests that this counterfeiter was located in or around Guatemala, had access to 19th century Guatemala coinage, and probably did not have separate access to blank planchets.

The quality of die workmanship on both varieties is extremely poor. Both varieties are very rare.

This operation was likely producing these counterfeits in the 1920s in Guatemala when the U.S. government began to have a strong presence there, largely driven by the influence of the United Fruit Company, a major banana producer. As such, some U.S. coinage circulated in these regions. This author hypothesizes that the reason these two counterfeit U.S. coins were made was due to their greater local demand over the provisional, base-metal Guatemala centavos denominations of the 1910s to 1925 before the quetzal was introduced. The crudeness of the die work was inconsequential to the locals who were largely unfamiliar with U.S. coinage. Instead, U.S. silver coinage likely had greater demand than local currency, even when struck over 19th century silver coins which may have been demonetized.

Table 1.56. ***Guatemala***

Date	Denom.	Obv	Rev	Alloy
1920-S	$0.25	1	A	Coin silver
1920	$0.50	2	G	Coin silver

Obverse:	Top cross-bar on 7 leans slightly downward. Right-most laurel leaf is distinctly left of upright on R in LIBERTY; authentic coins have the right-most laurel leaf centered on the upright of R. IN GOD has wide letters.
Reverse:	Thin stems on sapling of mountain pine. Top mountain pine stem ends at the center of B in PLURIBUS; authentic coins have this stem ending on the right edge of B. Bold AW initials.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Coin silver	Reeded	*Fat Motto* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation. **Rev.** Die crack on right side of pine and die erosion in fields.

Comments: This is likely the second and last use of this reverse die whose failure may have resulted in it ultimately being retired and this may explain its current rarity.

1919 Z1-B

Obverse: Crude, hand-engraved details. F, not E in LIBERTY. Dots behind Liberty's head instead of oak leaves. IN GOD WE TRUST leans right.
Reverse: Somewhat subdued design elements. Top-left upright of H indented.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Mesquite* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1920 Z1-B

Obverse: Crude, hand-engraved details. Weak top serif of B. F, not E in LIBERTY. Strike doubling.
Reverse: Somewhat subdued design elements. Top-left upright of H indented. W designer initials lean right except on at least 1 known example with a shattered reverse die and the W leans left.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Mesquite* Family	**a)** Prime. **b)** **Rev.** Shattered die with reworked W initials leaning left.

Comments: One example of this variety was found in circulation around New York City in the 1930s, and another was removed from circulation in 1934. Seemingly anomalous die lines may appear in random places across the obverse.

1920 Z2-G

Obverse: Date and motto are quite crude, and sloping in opposing directions. B in LIBERTY looks like an R.

Reverse: All details quite crude, especially the motto and tree. Small E in the motto.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Coin Silver (est.)	Reeded	*Guatemala* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: The example shown was struck over an 1865 Guatemala 4 reales distorting some of the die details. This variety may be related to a 1920-S quarter counterfeit overstruck on a Guatemala 2 reales.

1921 Z1-A

Obverse: Right-most laurel leaf is distinctly left of upright on R in LIBERTY; authentic coins have the right-most laurel leaf centered on the upright of R. IN GOD has wide letters.

Reverse: Thin stems on sapling of mountain pine. Top mountain pine stem ends at the center of B in PLURIBUS; authentic coins have this stem ending on the right edge of B. Bold AW initials.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Between 10 and 20	Coin silver	Reeded	*Fat Motto* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: At least one example has been graded by a TPG.

1921 Z2-F

Obverse: Top curve of 9 thick. Right foot of 2 in date is pointed rather than square. D in GOD ends on the left side of S in TRUST. Lowest sun ray strong and 3 short rays pointing to Liberty's dress stubby.

Reverse: Letters in AMERICA are thinner than genuine coins. Moderately crude lettering in E PLURIBUS UNUM. Strong initials with a wide horizontal space in the middle.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First identified in 2024. This is the highest-quality hand-made die counterfeit WLH documented.

1927 Z1-C

Obverse: Crude, hand-engraved, bold details. F, not E in LIBERTY. Rim encroaching on top of T. Bold lines on skirt.

Reverse: Bold design elements. S in PLURIBUS touches eagle feathers. S mintmark is missing. No designer initials.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Mesquite* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: No WLHs were minted in Philadelphia in 1927, and they were otherwise only minted in San Francisco.

1939-S Z1-D

Obverse: Date is slightly undersized. Liberty has a boldly defined chin and jaw. Thin, bold lines on Liberty's dress.

Reverse: Lettering is slightly small and thin. S mintmark is high and leans left. The pine stem is slightly thinly defined. The eagle's feather details are quite bold.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1942-S Z1-E

Obverse: Crude hand-engraved details. The sun is not circular. In IGWT the G looks like a C and the E is backwards.

Reverse: Crude hand-engraved details. Lettering is thin and not well aligned. The S mintmark is large, thin and faint.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Silver (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

Transfer Dies

At the time of this publication, six different transfer die counterfeit WLH varieties have been documented. All are known or estimated to have been struck on silver planchets. One family, *The Odd One*, consists of three varieties. These were likely made during the 1920s and/or 1930s. The origin of these varieties is unknown. These varieties exhibit details ranging from very good to very fine and are generally well-made.

Auction records or other public sales information for any of these varieties before 2015 has not been identified or thoroughly investigated. Since then, individual examples have been acquired for $100 to $400.

Meet the Family

The Odd One

The Odd One family consists of three varieties dated 1914, 1915, and 1916. The second 1 in the date was altered from a 3 and the planchet alloy is sterling silver, suggesting a 1930s period of manufacture. All examples seen show low-grade details Another characteristic of these varieties are tiny raised metal dots across the surface. The origin of these varieties is unknown. Other undocumented varieties may exist.

Table 1.57. *The Odd One*

Date	Obv	Rev	Alloy
1914	1	F	SS
1915	1	A	SS
1916	1	D	SS

1914
TD.1-TD.F

Comments: Die altered from a 1934-dated coin. Sterling silver planchet. *The Odd One* family.

1915
TD.1-TD.A

Comments: Die altered from a 1935-dated coin. Sterling silver planchet. *The Odd One* family.

1916
TD.1-TD.D

Comments: Die altered from a 1936-dated coin. Sterling silver planchet. *The Odd One* family.

1920-S
TD.1-TD.B

Comments: Die corrosion or abrasion around IGWT and elsewhere on the obverse. Surfaces appear sand-blasted. Estimated to be on a silver planchet.

1928-D
TD.1-TD.C

Comments: Fantasy date and mintmark combination. Obverse dots around base of Y, and vertical striations left of R. Horizontal die line left of Liberty's right scarf. Estimated to be on a silver planchet.

1934
TD.1-TD.E

Comments: The reverse has notable raised metal, such as below TE in STATES, A and E in AMERICA, and along the rim past A3. 88% silver planchet.

Casts

Cast counterfeit WLHs survive in great abundance. This corresponds with the vast number of reports of cast counterfeiting operations taking place over this period. All or nearly all examples seen were cast in white metal of varying quality. Most examples studied weigh between 9 and 10 grams, or slightly above and below that weight.

Most cast counterfeit WLH date and mintmarks have been documented. An ambitious and patient collector could potentially complete a set of cast WLHs with all dates and mintmarks.

The general availability of cast counterfeit WLHs has allowed for sufficient pricing and value data. Most examples acquired by the author have cost between $1 and $5, but higher-quality pieces and counterstamped examples may sell for $20 to $50 each, or possibly more.

Cast 1920-S WLH counterstamped 'BAD'.

Well-made, high-grade and heavily silvered cast 1944 WLH.

2

Silver Dollars

Flowing Hair, Draped Bust

Authentic Coin Overview

1794-1804 • Philadelphia Mint

The first U.S. silver dollars were minted from 1794 to 1803; the 1804 dollars were struck decades later starting in 1834. The first design, the Flowing Hair dollars were struck in 1794 and partially in 1795. Later in 1795 the obverse changed to a Draped Bust portrait and a Small Eagle reverse, and these continued to be struck until 1798. Later in 1798 the reverse design was changed to the Heraldic Eagle, and these continued to be struck until 1803. Planchets were a consistent 0.8924 silver, 0.1076 copper, weighing 26.96 grams.

During the first decade that U.S. silver dollars were minted they did not routinely circulate in the states. Instead, there was a small profit in exporting U.S. dollars to the West Indies, exchanging them for the equivalently valued Mexican and Spanish dollars of higher silver content, and recoining the foreign pieces (Carothers 75). The American demand for silver dollars was met through the abundant circulation of Mexican and Spanish dollars.

In 1806 Thomas Jefferson put a stop to this endless chain of exchanges by directing the mint to stop coining silver dollars; as it turns out, Jefferson had no constitutional authority to take this action (Carothers 75). Despite this constitutional hiccup, this stop-order would remain in place for the next 30 years. As a result of these factors, the U.S. silver dollar was essentially unknown to most Americans by 1836.

Flowing Hair Dollar (1794 to 1795)

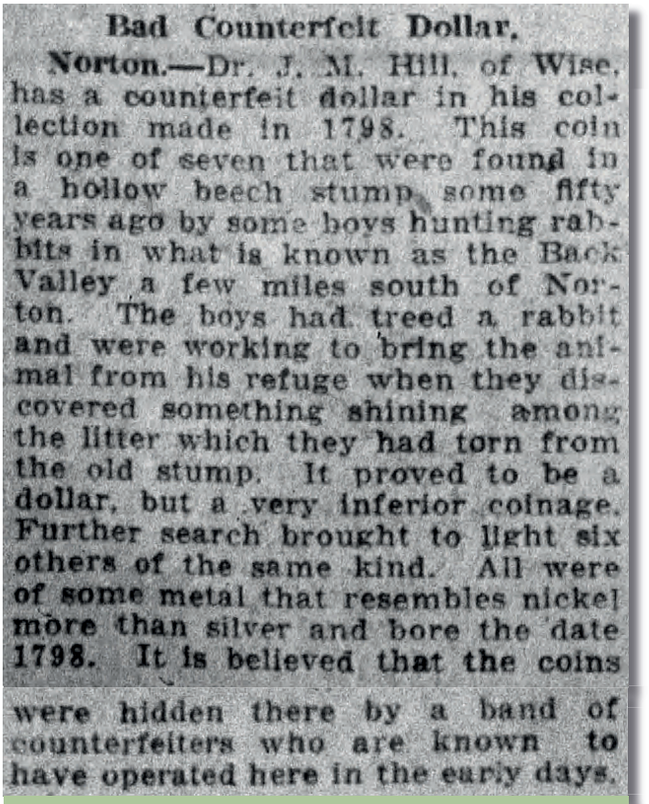
Draped Bust, Small Eagle Dollar (1795 to 1798)

Draped Bust, Heraldic Eagle Dollar (1798 to 1803)

The Counterfeiters

Through the course of researching historical accounts of counterfeit U.S. Bust silver dollars, only one report has surfaced that has the potential to be associated with counterfeit Bust silver dollars. However, this report is not from the late 18th or early 19th century, but instead from the first quarter of the 20th century. *The News and Advance* newspaper from Lynchburg, Virginia reported on August 4, 1927 about counterfeit silver dollars dated 1798 being found about 50 years earlier around the Norton area.

However, this report could easily refer to



Bad Counterfeit Dollar.

Norton.—Dr. J. M. Hill, of Wise, has a counterfeit dollar in his collection made in 1798. This coin is one of seven that were found in a hollow beech stump some fifty years ago by some boys hunting rabbits in what is known as the Back Valley a few miles south of Norton. The boys had treed a rabbit and were working to bring the animal from his refuge when they discovered something shining among the litter which they had torn from the old stump. It proved to be a dollar, but a very inferior coinage. Further search brought to light six others of the same kind. All were of some metal that resembles nickel more than silver and bore the date 1798. It is believed that the coins were hidden there by a band of counterfeiters who are known to have operated here in the early days.

The News and Advance. August 4, 1927.

Mexican Portrait silver dollar counterfeits of which several varieties are known and were possibly also made in this part of Virginia at this time.

Nevertheless, no firm documentation has been found that clearly identifies any pieces being made and in circulation. However, it is understood that some people were making cast counterfeits of these dollars. We know this because metal detectorists have reported finding at least a couple cast examples since at least 2010.

The near absence of U.S. silver dollars in circulation prior to 1836 resulted in the equivalent absence of counterfeit U.S. silver dollars being made. Furthermore, the Spanish silver dollars from Spain, Mexico, and other countries in Central/South America were exceptionally more common in the U.S. and abroad given the massive quantities of silver being mined there and the subsequent coining of that silver. Since the Spanish silver dollars were so common, it was much more common for people to counterfeit those coins, and counterfeit them they did!

The Portrait-style Spanish silver dollars from this era were primarily minted in Mexico City, Lima, Potosi, Santiago, and Guatemala. Not unexpectedly, counterfeiters also replicated these mints when creating their die struck pieces or when using host coins to make molds for casting pieces. Hundreds of varieties and tens of thousands of examples of struck and cast counterfeit Central and South American Portrait silver dollars were made at this time (Gurney 2014), but only a tiny proportion of the overall examples survive to modern times.

The Counterfeits

No die struck contemporary counterfeit Bust silver dollars have been documented which were made for circulation. Instead, only a few cast counterfeits have been reported and are known. As already mentioned, some of these have been more recent metal detecting finds, while others have been in numismatic collections for decades.

This well-made cast counterfeit 1800 appears to copy B-4/BB-186. It is assumed to be contemporary, but it could be made later. XRF analysis found a high quantity of arsenic on the surface which may be the result of arsenic sweat from the silver-plating process.

Seated
1840

Authentic Coin Overview

1836; 1838-1873 • Philadelphia, New Orleans, Carson City, San Francisco Mints

By the second half of the 1830s the U.S. was once again interested in revitalizing the silver dollar. Several designs of a new Seated Liberty and Flying Eagle dollar were created by Christian Gobrecht. These were coined on a limited basis for use in circulation in 1836, 1837 and 1839; pieces dated 1838 are considered patterns and were not intended for circulation.

Large-scale dollar minting operations probably never went into effect in the 1830s because of the adverse silver ratio and a great quantity of gold coins flooding back into circulation. Despite an adverse silver ratio, U.S. imports of silver exceeded exports by about $20,000,000 per year from 1834 to 1843 (Carothers 99). The Act of 1837 also abolished seigniorage charges allowing the mint to accumulate great stocks of coins in all denominations (Carothers 100). But the massive flood of gold coins into circulation had the largest effect limiting the demand for silver dollars and half dollars to be coined (Carothers 99).

The flood of gold coinage into circulation during the 1830s slowed down by 1840 to a point where the silver dollar was again back in demand. The value of a silver dollar was now worth about $1.01 in gold, resulting in silver coinage remaining in circulation, rather than being exported overseas (Carothers 100), and the brief success of a bimetallic system.

Large-scale dollar minting operations began in 1840. These coins retained the Seated Liberty design paired with a perched eagle. Production would last until 1873, but over the course of these decades this silver dollar would go on to have a most tumultuous history, remaining out of domestic circulation for most of these years.

For the first few years the dollar was in strong demand from bullion depositors, and mintages were high. However, by the end of 1843 demand quickly dissipated. Bullion deposits slowed-down significantly resulting in very low mintages lasting through 1867, save for 1846-7 and 1859-60.

Since the resurrection of the silver dollar in 1840, the public had little interest in using this coin. Dollars were large, bulky, and inconvenient in commerce. The public much preferred smaller, more versatile fractional silver instead. As such, it was of little consequence that Seated dollars largely ended up being exported overseas, primarily to China, but also to parts of Europe, South America, and the West Indies. The factors resulting in the export of Seated dollars revolved around its high bullion value relative to the intrinsic value of the coin.

Throughout the 1840s there was a general absence of silver coinage in circulation, and bullion deposits to the mint slowed considerably. The Hard Times were to blame for precious metal coinage hoarding and shortages through 1845. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. fought the 1846-8 Mexican American War. This resulted in the importation of silver to the U.S. from Mexico slowing down considerably. Finally, by the end of the year gold was discovered in California.

The California gold rush began in 1848 and was in full-swing by 1849. Gold steadily became quite common on world markets. By 1851 the ratio of the value of gold to silver began to slide from the standard 16-to-1 to 15.45-to-1 (Bowers 1993). This resulted in a significant export of silver from the U.S. To keep a dollar coin in circulation, the U.S. used its surplus of gold and authorized the production of a gold dollar and double eagle in 1849. The gold dollar was produced in quantity in the hope of filling the void where silver coins, especially dollars, were in short supply (Bowers 1993). Some mint officials even called for the discontinuation of the silver dollar given that it was illogical to have two different metal dollars in circulation at the same time, especially when the silver version was worth more than the gold (Bowers 1993).

To keep silver from being exported, Congress enacted the Coinage Act of February 21, 1853. This mandated a lowering of the weight of silver coins from half-dimes to half dollars, thus creating a fiduciary coinage, and silver flooded

back into the U.S. Ironically, the silver dollar was omitted from this fiduciary system, and by 1854 they no longer circulated because they were worth a lot more as bullion (Bowers 1993).

In 1859 a gigantic source of domestic silver was made public in Nevada, known as the Comstock Lode. This virgin supply of silver led to the largest combined mintage of silver dollars, between all mints, through 1860. But most of these coins were not destined to stay within the confines of the U.S. and were instead exported to China where they were melted down and converted to bullion (Bowers 1993).

By the time the Civil War started, silver dollars were still worth more as bullion. Payments in specie on the east coast were suspended. And nearly all of the limited mintage of silver dollars were exported overseas, either to China, the West Indies, and/or to South America.

After the Civil War and until 1872 silver dollars continued to be exported to China due to their high bullion value. Starting in 1870, quantities of silver dollars remained in the U.S. due to the price of silver dropping relative to gold. By 1873, the last year of the Seated dollar design, nearly all coins remained stateside due to the value of silver dropping to less than the face value of the coin (PCGS CoinFacts 2023).

The Seated dollar was struck between 1840 and 1873. It was struck at the Philadelphia mint every year, but was only struck at the New Orleans mint in 1846, 1850, 1859, and 1860. These dollars were then minted in San Francisco starting in 1859, and again in 1870, 1872, and 1873. Finally, from 1870 to 1873 a small quantity were struck annually in Carson City.

Between 1840 and 1865, and with the exception of two examples dated 1866, the reverse die did not include a motto above the eagle. Starting in 1866 until 1873 a motto was added above the eagle.

Seated Liberty Dollar, No Motto (1840 to 1865)

Seated Liberty Dollar, With Motto (1866 to 1873)

The Counterfeiters

A negro man, named Andrew, slave of William White, charged with passing a counterfeit silver dollar on Isaac Jacobs, was arrested on yesterday afternoon...
Richmond Dispatch, January 13, 1865

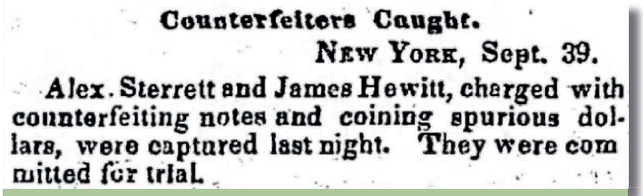
The legal tender status of foreign coins in U.S. circulation through 1857, notably the global standard Mexican 8 reales, or silver dollar, complicates the historical record when searching for counterfeit U.S. silver dollars prior to this year. Case-in-point is one of the earliest newspaper reports of counterfeit silver dollars in U.S. circulation during the Seated dollar era, the June 5, 1850 report from *The Republic*. However, this re-

The police of Philadelphia have succeeded in breaking up a dangerous gang of counterfeiters. The *North American* says that seven persons have been arrested, and several thousand dollars of spurious bills on different banks of Philadelphia and elsewhere, together with a large amount of well executed counterfeit dollars, half dollars, quarters, and dimes, recovered. The plates of the spurious notes, and the machinery for manufacturing the counterfeit money, have also been seized.

The Republic. June 5, 1850.

port supports counterfeit U.S. silver dollars being made, instead of the Mexican type, since the other reported counterfeit coinage includes U.S. denominations and far fewer people were counterfeiting Mexican dollars at this time than in decades prior.

Similar reports of the arrest of counterfeiters making silver dollars, presumably of the American type, were reported in the September 30, 1852 *Louisville Daily Courier* (shown), and the arrest of William W. Wilson in the January 15, 1853 *Times Picayune* (not shown).



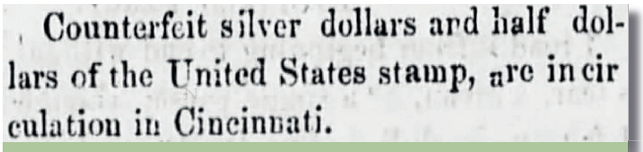
Counterfeiters Caught.

NEW YORK, Sept. 39.

Alex. Sterrett and James Hewitt, charged with counterfeiting notes and coining spurious dollars, were captured last night. They were committed for trial.

Louisville Daily Courier. September 30, 1852.

The earliest confirmed report found of counterfeit U.S. silver dollars in circulation, presumably of the Seated type, comes from the June 20, 1855, *True American*. Unfortunately, this report is only a basic announcement of such pieces in circulation and does not contain more details about the counterfeits or even an arrest of the counterfeiters.



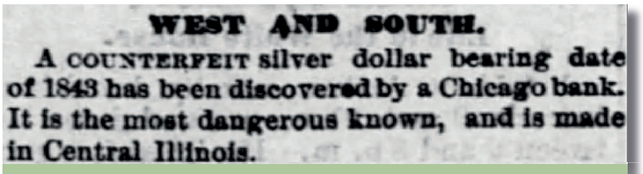
Counterfeit silver dollars and half dollars of the United States stamp, are in circulation in Cincinnati.

True American. June 20, 1855.

The cited account dated January 13, 1865 at the beginning of this section is also interesting based on the context of the person who was passing the coin but also its association with the end of the Civil War in or around the Richmond, Virginia area. We also don't know if this was an American dollar or potentially a Mexican dollar still circulating.

In early August 1869, a Frenchman named Antony Neill was arrested in Brooklyn, New York making counterfeit silver and gold coinage, notably cast counterfeit 1850-dated, New Orleans mint Seated dollars using a solder material.

The last confirmed report identified of counterfeit Seated dollars being made and/or in circulation comes from the February 15, 1882 edition of the *Wellington Enterprise*. Here, an 1843 counterfeit dollar was discovered in a Chicago bank.



WEST AND SOUTH.

A COUNTERFEIT silver dollar bearing date of 1843 has been discovered by a Chicago bank. It is the most dangerous known, and is made in Central Illinois.

Wellington Enterprise. February 15, 1882.

The Counterfeits

No die struck contemporary counterfeit Seated silver dollars made for circulation have been documented. Instead, only a few cast counterfeits have been reported. Several of these casts were made with base white metal alloys, such as an 1872, while others are brass, such as the 1840 example shown here.

The numismatic value of these casts in the current market is hard to determine. This author estimates a value of about $100 for each contemporary counterfeit cast Seated dollar given how rare this type of contemporary counterfeit U.S. coin is to find.

1840 cast counterfeit Seated dollar in brass.

Trade
IN GOD WE TRUST
1874

Authentic Coin Overview

1873-1885 • Philadelphia, Carson City, San Francisco Mints

The Trade dollar was minted for circulation from 1873 to 1878 and solely as collector proofs from 1879 to 1885. This coin was primarily issued for circulation in Asia to compete with other foreign silver dollars. Many pieces which circulated in Asia were counterstamped with oriental chop marks.

These silver dollars were struck at three mints, Philadelphia, Carson City, and San Francisco. Mintages from Philadelphia tended to be less than the two western mints. A total of 35,965,939 Trade dollars were struck, including proofs.

The Trade dollar underwent design modifications on the obverse and the reverse. The first obverse was struck from 1873 to 1876, and the second obverse struck from 1876 to 1885. The first reverse was used from 1873 and 1874 and occasionally in 1875 and 1876. The second reverse was adopted starting in 1875 and 1876 and used exclusively from 1877 through 1885. The two obverse and reverse die designs are illustrated below.

The Trade dollar was legal tender in the United States where it circulated widely. The law authorizing Trade dollars was repealed by Congress in February 1887. Also in 1887, the Treasury redeemed Trade dollars that were not mutilated by chop marks.

Trade Dollar (1873 to 1885)

Obverse 1

Extended hand has 3 fingers.

Bottom of scroll points left.

Obverse 2

Extended hand has 4 fingers.

Bottom of scroll points down.

Reverse 1

Berry under eagle's left (viewers right) talon.

Arrowhead ends over 0.

Reverse 2

No berry under talon.

Arrowhead ends over 2.

The Counterfeiters

We were shown...a counterfeit trade dollar...at the bar of a saloon here in town. It was a good imitation of the genuine stove-lid currency.
Morning Union, Eureka, California, August 15, 1876

There does not appear to have been many counterfeiters and counterfeiting organizations making Trade dollars in the 19th century based on the small quantity of newspaper reports of those events during this period. Furthermore, nearly all reports range from 1875 to 1882 during the main period when these coins were in domestic circulation before being replaced by the Morgan dollar.

Due to the effort to export most of the minted Trade dollars to Asia rather than circulate them domestically, only a small proportion of the overall mintage between at least 1873 and 1875 were in circulation in the U.S. Those pieces which did circulate in the U.S. tended to do so close to those three mints, in particular Philadelphia and San Francisco.

The earliest found report of counterfeit Trade dollars in circulation comes from the *Reading Times* of July 29, 1875. This report identifies a gang of counterfeiters making excellent quality casts in New York city.

CAPTURE OF COUNTERFEITERS

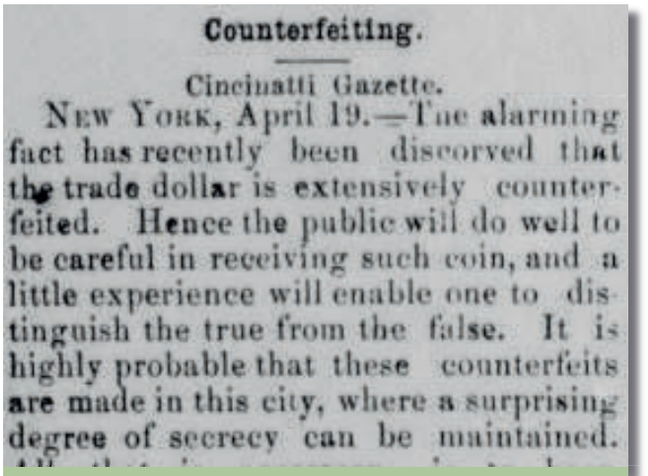
Arrest of a Daring Gang.

THE SECRET SERVICE AT WORK.

The New Trade Dollars Imitated to Perfection.—Coiners, Crucible, Battery and Base Coin Seized.

Reading Times. July 29, 1875.

As it turns out, New York was the main city in the U.S. where counterfeit Trade dollars were being made and circulated through at least the end of the 1870s as supported by the May 11, 1878 account in the *Ventura Signal*. But this is not at all surprising given that all denominations and types of counterfeit U.S. coins were being made and circulated there for several decades already. Beyond New York, Philadelphia and Cincinnati were other major cities where we find reports of cast counterfeit trade dollars in circulation.



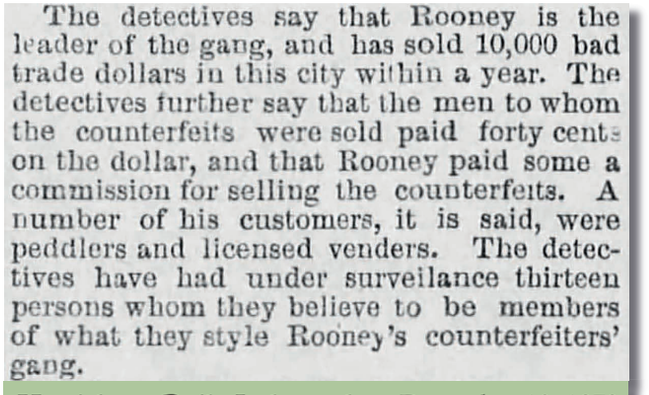
Counterfeiting.

Cincinatti Gazette.

NEW YORK, April 19.—The alarming fact has recently been discorved that the trade dollar is extensively counterfeited. Hence the public will do well to be careful in receiving such coin, and a little experience will enable one to distinguish the true from the false. It is highly probable that these counterfeits are made in this city, where a surprising degree of secrecy can be maintained.

Ventura Signal. May 11, 1878.

The most extensive counterfeiting operation was reported from New York City in December 1879. James Clark, High Currie and Matthew Rooney were arrested by Treasury officers after having already made and sold more than 10,000 cast counterfeit Trade dollars over the course of



The detectives say that Rooney is the leader of the gang, and has sold 10,000 bad trade dollars in this city within a year. The detectives further say that the men to whom the counterfeits were sold paid forty cents on the dollar, and that Rooney paid some a commission for selling the counterfeits. A number of his customers, it is said, were peddlers and licensed venders. The detectives have had under surveilance thirteen persons whom they believe to be members of what they style Rooney's counterfeiters' gang.

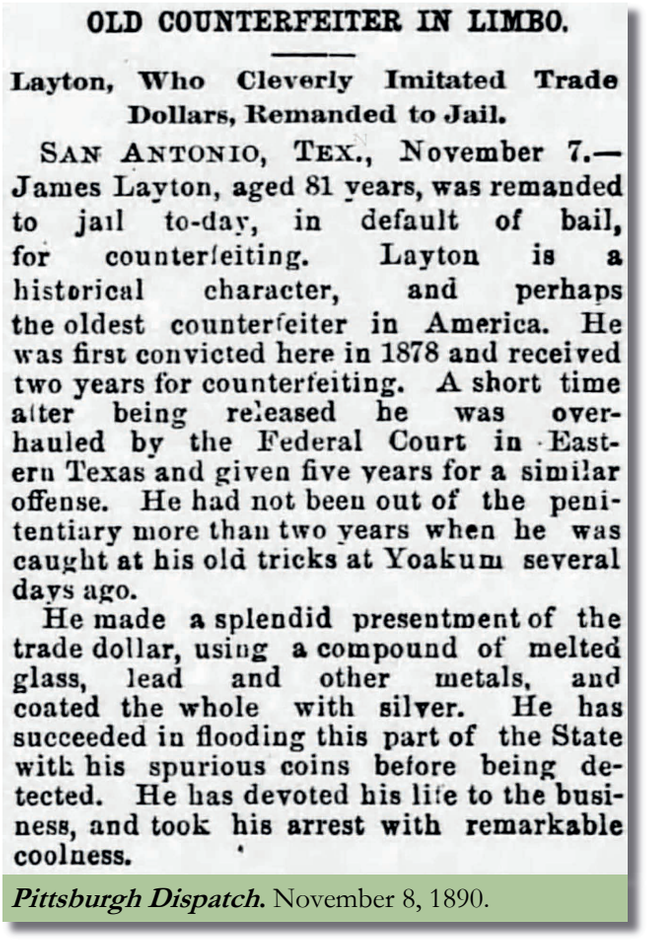
Harrisburg Daily Independent. December 10, 1879

the prior year.

It appears that nearly all people involved in counterfeiting U.S. coins stopped making trade dollars by about 1880. This is assumed due to the few reports after this year and probably the result of the new Morgan dollar being minted just a couple years prior which itself was heavily counterfeited very early on. However, the latest report found of Trade dollar counterfeiting was not until 1890 and in Texas.

In early November 1890, James Layton was arrested in Yoakum, Texas having circulated many of his cast counterfeit Trade dollars across Texas. As the report reads, Layton had been counterfeiting since at least 1878 when he was in his late 60s, and when arrested in this instance he was 81 years old. Why Layton chose to counterfeit the Trade dollar, a coin design which was probably rarely encountered at that time, is unknown and potentially would have heightened, to a degree, closer examination by the recipients.

All of the historical newspaper reports found dating between 1875 and 1890 identify Trade dollar cast counterfeiting operations and none clearly report die struck counterfeiting. This trend continued at least into the early years of Morgan dollar counterfeiting whereby only casts were documented for at least the first decade they were in circulation.



OLD COUNTERFEITER IN LIMBO.

Layton, Who Cleverly Imitated Trade Dollars, Remanded to Jail.

SAN ANTONIO, TEX., November 7.—James Layton, aged 81 years, was remanded to jail to-day, in default of bail, for counterfeiting. Layton is a historical character, and perhaps the oldest counterfeiter in America. He was first convicted here in 1878 and received two years for counterfeiting. A short time after being released he was overhauled by the Federal Court in Eastern Texas and given five years for a similar offense. He had not been out of the penitentiary more than two years when he was caught at his old tricks at Yoakum several days ago.

He made a splendid presentment of the trade dollar, using a compound of melted glass, lead and other metals, and coated the whole with silver. He has succeeded in flooding this part of the State with his spurious coins before being detected. He has devoted his life to the business, and took his arrest with remarkable coolness.

Pittsburgh Dispatch. November 8, 1890.

The Counterfeits

A sizable quantity of counterfeit Trade dollars were produced domestically and presumably a comparable amount were made in Asia. Most of these that survive today are casts, and a much smaller proportion are struck transfer die pieces while hand-made die varieties are unknown.

There is not currently a strong collector's market for contemporary counterfeit Trade dollars. One reason for this is that not many exist, and those that do exist are usually less interesting casts. Another factor plaguing collectability of these counterfeits are all the modern counterfeit Trade dollars which have flooded the numismatic market in the last 50 years primarily from Asian countries such as China.

Transfer Dies

Only a handful of transfer die counterfeit Trade dollars made for circulation have been documented at the time of this publication. These were struck on brass and copper planchets and silver plated, such as the examples shown. Additional examples and varieties of transfer die struck counterfeit Trade dollar varieties, including dates and mints, are anticipated to still exist.

Recent prices paid to acquire these transfer die struck counterfeits has been modest, on the order of $20 to $50 in many cases.

1874-S
TD.1-TD.A

Comments: Type 1/1. Struck on a brass planchet with traces of silvering remaining in the recesses. This example has medal turn.

1875-S
TD.1-TD.B

Comments: Type 1/1. Struck on a copper planchet with no silvering visible.

1876-S
TD.1-TD.C

Comments: Type 1/1. Struck on a brass planchet with nearly all silvering remaining.

Cast

At least 100 cast counterfeit Trade dollars made for circulation still exist. At least seven date and mintmark combinations have been observed although Carson City cast counterfeits are fairly rare. Many are white metal casts, but some are brass. Overall quality of these casts is mixed, and many are lower-quality than what is shown here.

Recent prices paid to acquire a cast counterfeit Trade dollar have been modest, on the order of $10 to $40 each.

Comments: 1875 Trade dollar cast from a white metal alloy.

Morgan

Authentic Coin Overview

1878-1921 • Philadelphia, New Orleans, Carson City, San Francisco, Denver Mints

The Morgan dollar was minted from 1878 to 1904 and again in 1921, all with nearly the same design and planchet alloy over that period. It was struck at five mints, primarily at Philadelphia, New Orleans, and San Francisco, but also Carson City from 1878 to 1893, and at Denver only in 1921.

Morgan dollars were struck in immense quantities almost every year due to the Bland-Allison Act. As a result, in their early years the Morgan dollar was sometimes nicknamed the 'Bland Dollars', but since then the Morgan dollar is one of the most revered and collected U.S. coin designs.

The reverse design was changed slightly over its production history. 1878 varieties used hub A (8 tail feathers), B (7 tail feathers) and C. Between 1878 and 1904 three types of 'C' hubs were used, as illustrated below. And in 1921 a 'D' hub was used.

Morgan Dollar (1878 to 1904, 1921)

Three Morgan Dollar U.S. Mint Hub Types

C3
(1878 to 1901)

Narrow eagle neck-wing gap.

2 berries on left stem; appears like one large berry.

C4/C3
(1901 to 1903)

Wide eagle neck-wing gap.

2 berries on left stem. Left berry bold, right berry faded.

C4
(1901 to 1904)

Wide eagle neck-wing gap.

1 berry on left stem.

The Counterfeiters

Chicago. The Managers of the Argyle House have for some time been perplexed by complaints of guests that they received from the waiters spurious coin in change. Detectives have discovered that two colored waiters, while conveying change from the cashier to the guests, have been in the habit of abstracting from money received a good coin and substituting a counterfeit in its stead.
Detroit Free Press, March 2, 1882

By the end of the 19th century the Morgan dollar was the primary silver coin circulating in the U.S. Its prominence in circulation was similar to that of the half dollar prior to the U.S. Civil War. Such a status also made it the target of many counterfeiters.

Nearly all counterfeit silver dollars made up until 1894 were cast in white metal. A select few were cast or struck in brass, while a miniscule amount were struck from transfer dies or hand-made dies. Several reports identify counterfeiters adding pulverized glass to base alloy casts to improve their ring. These characteristics made it difficult at times to easily detect counterfeit silver dollars. Thus, most cast silver dollars were relatively easily detected.

Counterfeit silver dollars were such a cultural phenomenon by 1890 that other forms of notices and advertisements were circulated to illustrate the issue. One popular, 23-page booklet was created by C. I Hood & Co., Lowell, Massachusetts, the creators of Hoods Sarsaparilla. This little booklet told *The Story of the Counterfeit Dollar* along with illustrations of the characters therein.

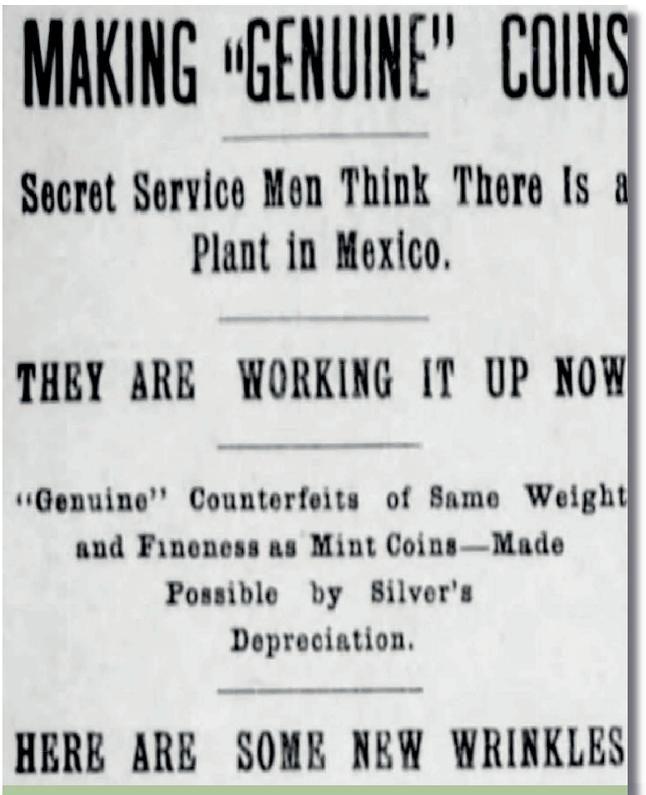
Before the 1890s very few counterfeit Morgan dollars were struck. The counterfeiters usually struck pieces on brass planchets, and there is currently no evidence that silver alloy planchets were ever used. The primary reason silver alloyed planchets were never used is because the price of silver was high enough to preclude such pieces being profitable.

The *Altoona Tribune* of June 3, 1897 reported that as early as 1890 *The Sun* newspaper allegedly published an account of full-weight and similar fineness counterfeit silver dollars being made and circulating in the South. These counterfeits were also described as lacking the small 'M' initial on Liberty's neck. In fact, an 1891-dated counterfeit Morgan dollar Z1-C is known which matches this basic description. Unfortunately, no other important details about these alleged counterfeits were discussed, such as dates or mintmark, and this 1890-account has not yet been independently verified after searching archival records. Consequently, the provenance of this 1891-dated variety, and any assumption that it is connected to this early 1890s account, cannot yet be verified. In addition, the reliability of this information remains contentious due to the high cost of silver in 1890. The value of pure silver in a silver dollar in 1890, and the years immediately preceding it, ranged from $0.72 to $0.80, and the value of an ounce of silver ranged from $0.94 and $1.04 (Federal 1917). This would have resulted in thin profit margins for any counterfeiting operation at the time, thus diminishing the likelihood that high silver content dollars were being counterfeited by 1890.

Starting in 1894, the value of silver in a silver dollar dropped to below $0.50, and would consistently range between $0.40 and $0.52 through 1916 (Federal 1917). Money changers, coin experts, and the Secret Service feared that this could

trigger counterfeiters to start producing full-weight and fineness silver dollars because a substantial profit margin could be realized. It did not take long for this possibility to become a reality across all circulating silver denominations.

The earliest reliable account of full-weight and fineness (or greater) counterfeit silver dollars was reported in the *Altoona Tribune* of June 3, 1897 although a report from three years earlier, in the *Logansport Pharos-Tribune* dated February 2, 1894, identified 'silver dollars made of pure silver' in circulation. The *Altoona Tribune* announced that a counterfeiting group was operating in Chihuahua, Mexico where laws to suppress such counterfeiting efforts were weaker than in the U.S. Thousands, if not millions of these counterfeit dollars were allegedly made and subsequently began to flood Texas; some of these dollars may have even made their way to St. Louis by the end of 1897 as described in the *Evening Bulletin*. Unfortunately, none of these newspaper accounts describe the dates or mintmark of these counterfeits which would provide provenance information. Nevertheless, this was likely the first major counterfeit Morgan dollar minting operation.



MAKING "GENUINE" COINS

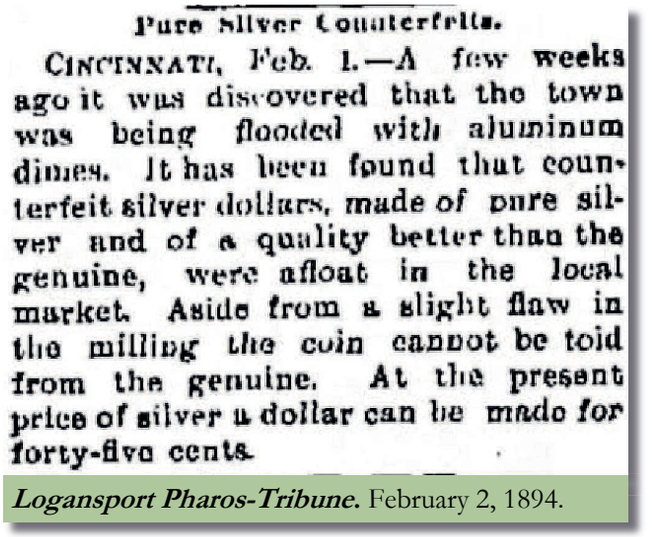
Secret Service Men Think There Is a Plant in Mexico.

THEY ARE WORKING IT UP NOW

"Genuine" Counterfeits of Same Weight and Fineness as Mint Coins—Made Possible by Silver's Depreciation.

HERE ARE SOME NEW WRINKLES

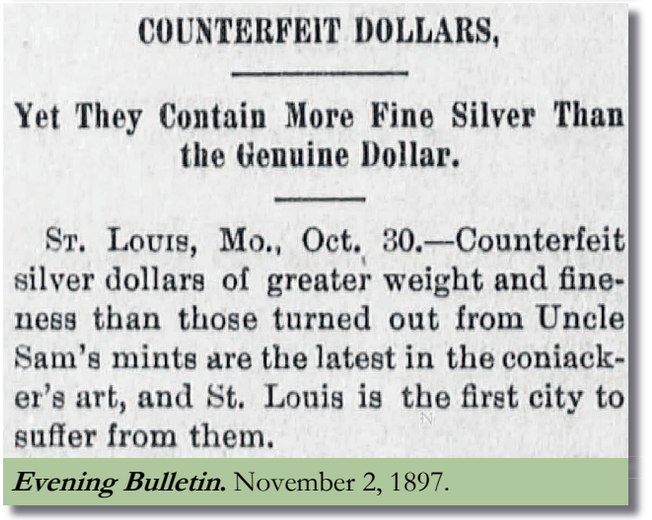
Altoona Tribune. June 3, 1897.



Pure Silver Counterfeits.

CINCINNATI, Feb. 1.—A few weeks ago it was discovered that the town was being flooded with aluminum dimes. It has been found that counterfeit silver dollars, made of pure silver and of a quality better than the genuine, were afloat in the local market. Aside from a slight flaw in the milling the coin cannot be told from the genuine. At the present price of silver a dollar can be made for forty-five cents.

Logansport Pharos-Tribune. February 2, 1894.



COUNTERFEIT DOLLARS,

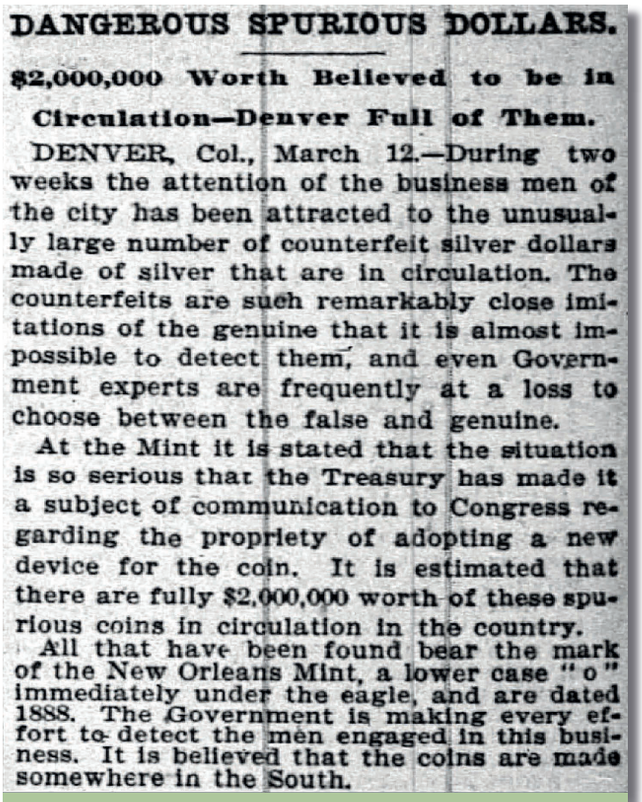
Yet They Contain More Fine Silver Than the Genuine Dollar.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Oct. 30.—Counterfeit silver dollars of greater weight and fineness than those turned out from Uncle Sam's mints are the latest in the coniacker's art, and St. Louis is the first city to suffer from them.

Evening Bulletin. November 2, 1897.

By March of 1898, several newspapers including the *New York Times, Richmond Times,* and the *Montgomery Advertiser* were reporting that Denver and other midwestern and eastern parts of the U.S. were flooded with excellent counterfeit silver dollars made of silver. This was the first time that a decent description of the date and mintmark of silver counterfeit Morgan dollars was reported. They were apparently all dated 1888-O. This was also the earliest public record of the estimated scope and scale of this counterfeiting epidemic; $2,000,000 of these excellent counterfeit dollars were said to be in circulation. If accurate, this would have been an astonishing quantity for the time. However, given the apparent difficulty in their detection by experts this scheme could have gone undetected for quite a while allowing for large quantities to easily accumulate in circulation.

Between April and November 1898, the hyped up story of these silver counterfeit Morgan



DANGEROUS SPURIOUS DOLLARS.

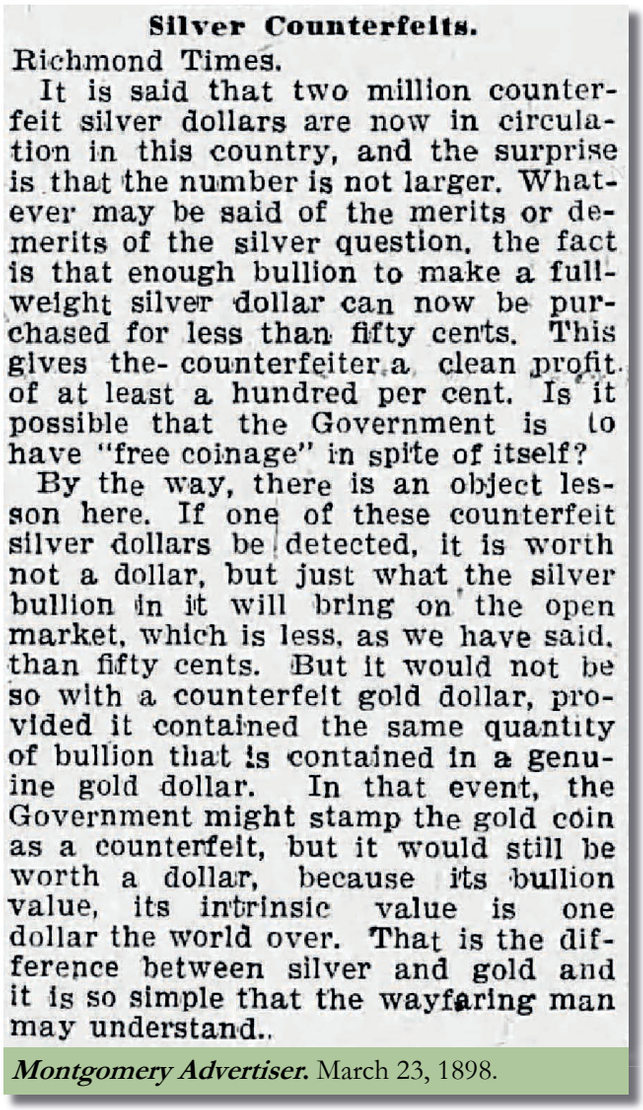
$2,000,000 Worth Believed to be in Circulation—Denver Full of Them.

DENVER, Col., March 12.—During two weeks the attention of the business men of the city has been attracted to the unusually large number of counterfeit silver dollars made of silver that are in circulation. The counterfeits are such remarkably close imitations of the genuine that it is almost impossible to detect them, and even Government experts are frequently at a loss to choose between the false and genuine.

At the Mint it is stated that the situation is so serious that the Treasury has made it a subject of communication to Congress regarding the propriety of adopting a new device for the coin. It is estimated that there are fully $2,000,000 worth of these spurious coins in circulation in the country.

All that have been found bear the mark of the New Orleans Mint, a lower case "o" immediately under the eagle, and are dated 1888. The Government is making every effort to detect the men engaged in this business. It is believed that the coins are made somewhere in the South.

New York Times. March 13, 1898.



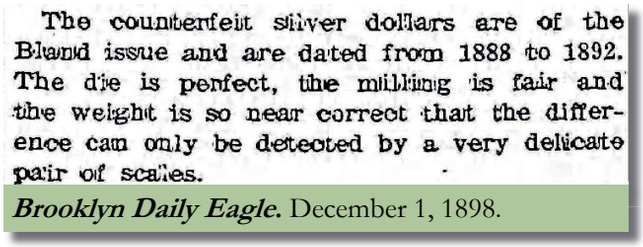
Silver Counterfeits.

Richmond Times.

It is said that two million counterfeit silver dollars are now in circulation in this country, and the surprise is that the number is not larger. Whatever may be said of the merits or demerits of the silver question, the fact is that enough bullion to make a full-weight silver dollar can now be purchased for less than fifty cents. This gives the counterfeiter a clean profit of at least a hundred per cent. Is it possible that the Government is to have "free coinage" in spite of itself?

By the way, there is an object lesson here. If one of these counterfeit silver dollars be detected, it is worth not a dollar, but just what the silver bullion in it will bring on the open market, which is less, as we have said, than fifty cents. But it would not be so with a counterfeit gold dollar, provided it contained the same quantity of bullion that is contained in a genuine gold dollar. In that event, the Government might stamp the gold coin as a counterfeit, but it would still be worth a dollar, because its bullion value, its intrinsic value is one dollar the world over. That is the difference between silver and gold and it is so simple that the wayfaring man may understand..

Montgomery Advertiser. March 23, 1898.



The counterfeit silver dollars are of the Bland issue and are dated from 1888 to 1892. The die is perfect, the milling is fair and the weight is so near correct that the difference can only be detected by a very delicate pair of scales.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle. December 1, 1898.

dollars curiously died down. Instead, nearly all other reports of counterfeit Morgan dollars in circulation were of cast pieces. It is hypothesized that the preceding media attention led these counterfeiters to go on a hiatus from distributing more pieces so as not to make it easier for the authorities to trace the origin of their operation. This down-time also allowed these counterfeiters to produce and stockpile more pieces for future distribution.

By December 1898, a new wave of thousands of struck silver Morgan dollar counterfeits entered circulation. They were first reported in the New York City area and within a couple weeks more were identified in Vicksburg, along with other parts of the South and Midwest. The dates of these latest counterfeits ranged from 1888 to 1892, and all had the New Orleans mintmark. To some, this epidemic was worrisome. Yet, as quickly as these pieces appeared in circulation they also vanished and reports stopped. This second wave of media attention may have resulted in these counterfeiters immediately stopping additional distribution efforts.

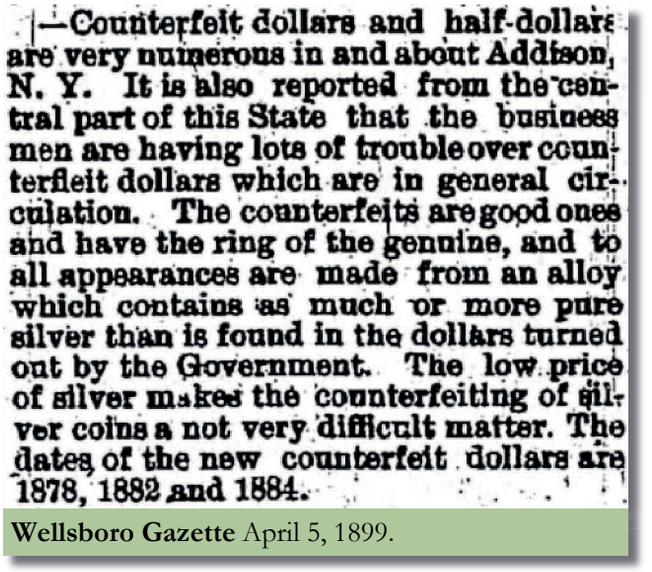
Until now, the strategy of these counterfeiters was to produce hand-made die-struck silver counterfeit Morgan dollars that were back-dated five to ten years from the year they were produced, and distribute them in bulk quantities in large urban areas. However, all or portions of these strategies were not successful given how quickly they were identified after at least two periods of distribution. This author hypothesizes that these counterfeiters may have changed some of their production and distribution strategies starting around 1899.

In or around 1899, these counterfeiters began

producing the 1899-O Z1-B Morgan dollars using the same reverse die as their earlier-dated counterfeits. It is speculated that these newest pieces were slowly placed into circulation in order to attract less immediate public and media attention. This strategy may have been successful since no newspaper accounts have been located describing these particular counterfeits in circulation or other bulk distribution efforts.

Despite the probable success of the 1899-O production and distribution, and that no written evidence has been found that these counterfeiters were ever arrested, hand-made die-struck counterfeit Morgan dollars were apparently still too easy to detect. As a result, if this counterfeiter was smart and continued making counterfeit Morgan dollars, it is hypothesized that they may have changed their production methodology to higher-quality transfer dies, such as those of the *Micro O* family (no evidence exists to support a direct connection between the *Large Date* family and the *Micro O* family).

One of the latest reports of full weight and fineness (or greater) counterfeit Morgan dollars in circulation comes from the April 5, 1899 edition of the *Wellsboro Gazette*. Here, three different dates are reported, 1878, 1882, and 1884 (no mintmark references). Given that these pieces are made of high-grade silver, it is assumed these are struck counterfeits, but casting could also be a possibility. Nevertheless, what is particularly intriguing about this report, especially when compared against the documented die struck varieties herein, is the lack of overlap. However, 1884-S Z1-A has the strongest possibility of being associated with this report notwithstanding the mintmark. A stronger association to this report could be made if similarly related 1878 and 1882 hand-made die struck counterfeit Morgan dollars made of high purity silver are documented in the future.



—Counterfeit dollars and half-dollars are very numerous in and about Addison, N. Y. It is also reported from the central part of this State that the business men are having lots of trouble over counterfeit dollars which are in general circulation. The counterfeits are good ones and have the ring of the genuine, and to all appearances are made from an alloy which contains as much or more pure silver than is found in the dollars turned out by the Government. The low price of silver makes the counterfeiting of silver coins a not very difficult matter. The dates of the new counterfeit dollars are 1878, 1882 and 1884.

Wellsboro Gazette April 5, 1899.

Morgan dollar counterfeiting continued well into the 20th century. Reports have counterfeit Morgan dollars being found in circulation in the 1950s and potentially even the 1960s. All of the reports found and studied describe cast counterfeits, although reports of die struck counterfeit Morgans could have been overlooked or under researched. Nevertheless, there were at least two die struck counterfeiting operations engaged in this business, probably during the first decade of the 20th century, known as the *Ragged Breast* family of hand-made die varieties and the *Micro O* family of transfer die varieties.

The Counterfeiter.
(THE BOGUS DOLLAR'S PAPA.)

Hood's Sarsaparilla is carefully prepared from Sarsaparilla, Dandelion, Mandrake, Dock, Pipsissewa, Juniper Berries, and other well known vegetable remedies, by a Combination, Proportion and Process peculiar to itself and in consequence of which it effects remarkable cures where other preparations fail. A fair trial of Hood's Sarsaparilla will convince any one of its peculiar merit.
(2)

THE STORY OF A
COUNTERFEIT DOLLAR.

My haughty relatives, the Blands, hail from Washington; but pa seemed to think that Whyo, N. J., would be a birthplace good enough for me. At the legal tender age of one I came into the world a well developed coin; and Counterfeit Critics soon admitted that my resemblance to the Blands was complete, with the exception of the left little talon on the right claw of the bird which infested my back. This talon, they said, showed an undue curvature (caused, possibly, by my eagle having been fed on a poorer quality of canary seed than falls to the flocks which accompany my legitimate kin). My papa—Plug Daly, *alias* The Queer—believed in making an offspring start early the battle of life; so before I was fairly cold, he passed me out into the world, with this paternal blessing: "—!! ——— ! ——— !!!!!"

Hood's Sarsaparilla has thoroughly established its claim of "the greatest blood purifier ever discovered." The most severe cases of scrofula, even if hereditary, yield to its curative power; and it also readily cures salt rheum, boils, pimples, and all other humors which accumulate in the blood. Send for a book containing many statements of cures, to C. I. Hood & Co., Lowell, Mass.
(3)

This is one of the stories from the Hoods Sarsaparilla booklet.

The Counterfeits

Hand-Made Dies

Fifteen different hand-made, die struck counterfeit Morgan dollar varieties have been documented dating from 1884 to 1901. Eleven have New Orleans mintmarks, one shows an 'S' for San Francisco, one has no mintmark indicating Philadelphia, and two have CC mintmarks for Carson City. All but one variety, 1900-O Z1-D, was struck on a high-grade silver planchet.

Six varieties are part of the *Large Date* family, and five varieties are part of the *Ragged Breast* family. The remaining four varieties are singletons. Based on this information, this illustrates that there were up to six documented counterfeiting operations making hand-made die struck counterfeit Morgan dollars.

The current cumulative population of documented hand-made, die struck counterfeit Morgan dollars is at 30 total examples. Presently, all varieties are known by five or fewer examples. This author estimates that there could be as few as 100 total extant examples between all varieties.

The author is unaware of any numismatists having seriously collected counterfeit hand-made, die struck Morgan dollars by variety before this publication. This is likely due to the rarity of each variety and the lack of any publication on this subject documenting the scope of what was made.

The author has not identified any auction records or other public sales information about these pieces before 2015. Since then, individual examples have sold privately for between $30 (melt value) to $600. The most valuable varieties are those associated with either documented counterfeit families.

Large Date Family

The *Large Date* counterfeit family is known by six varieties dated 1888-O, 1889-O, 1890-O, 1892-O, and 1899-O. Overall, die quality was very good. The dies were created from device punches without using a common hub. These varieties are easily identified by their large date, and comb-like inner wing feathers. There may have been two Liberty portrait device punches, one with a short left wheat stalk (1888-O) and a slightly longer left wheat stalk on the remaining four varieties. The planchet alloys are approximately 95% silver, 5% copper (95:5).

These counterfeits were well-publicized between 1897 and 1898. It was reported that two million entered circulation. With this type of reporting, many examples could have been removed from circulation quickly. This could explain why very few examples have been reported in the modern era and those are mostly in high-grade with only a couple showing extensive circulation. It has not been discovered who made these counterfeits and that information may never be known.

Large date

Comb-like inner wing

Table 2.1. ***Large Date***

Date	Obv	Rev	Alloy
1888-O	1	B	95:5
1889-O	1		
1890-O	1		
1899-O	1		
1892-O	1		
		H	

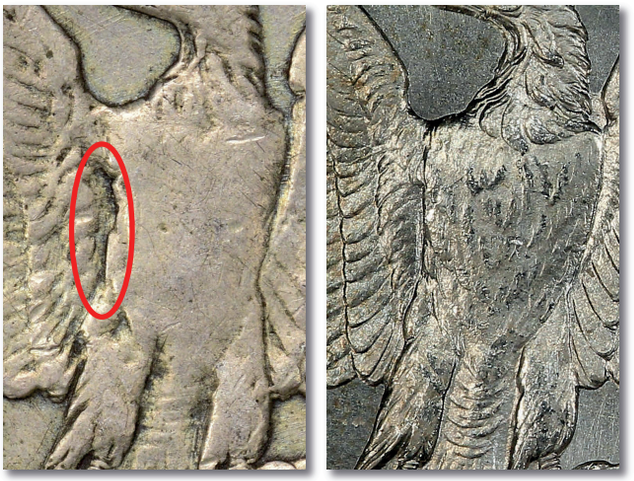
Ragged Breast Family

The *Ragged Breast* counterfeit family is known by five varieties dated 1890-CC, 1897-O, 1900-O and 1901-O. The die work on these varieties is quite good and of the highest quality between all 15 documented hand-made die Morgan dollar counterfeit varieties. The dies were created from device punches and not hubs. The planchets which have been XRF analyzed typically reveal an 85% silver, 15% copper alloy.

These varieties are easy to identify from the slight unevenness in the date numerals. On the reverse, there is a notable indent in the left-facing side of the eagle's breast (shown). Most of the reverse dies have heavy die scratches or polishing marks.

No written sources have been found identifying who was responsible for this *Ragged Breast* counterfeit family. The quality of the die work appears to have eluded detection and documentation as a counterfeit until recently. Nevertheless, this operation was part of a larger high-grade silver Morgan dollar counterfeiting epidemic taking place around the turn of the 20th century.

Given how recently 1897-O Z1-F, and both 1890-CC varieties were identified, there is a chance that additional, unreported varieties may exist.



Left side of the eagle's breast on the counterfeit (left) is noticeably indented relative to the genuine (right).

Table 2.2. *Ragged Breast*

Date	Obv	Rev	Alloy
1900-O	1	E	Bi
1897-O	1	F	Bi
1901-O	1		Bi
1890-CC	1	I	Bi
1890-CC	2	J	Bi

High-quality number punches.

Reverse F showing die scratches by the mintmark and wreath, and tiny spikes emanating from the eagle's neck and upper-left facing wing area.

1884-S
Z1-A

Obverse:	Small date. Long sloping top to the 1. Funky looking 4. 4 and star 13 relatively close. Stars appear bubbly. B filled in PLURIBUS.
Reverse:	Letters are slightly small. Some leaf and letter alignments are slightly different from those of the genuine coin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: On the example shown, the bottom loop of the second 8 and the 4 are filled. It is unknown if this occurs on other examples.

1888-O
Z1-B

Obverse:	Large date. Diagonal indent on bottom loop of 8. Lateral indent on the inside of the top loop of the 8. Left wheat stalk on Liberty's cap at bottom of RI.
Reverse:	Indented right foot of F in OF. Comb-like inner wing feathers. Raised lines, presumably representing feathers, between legs and above the intersection of the bundle of arrows and olive branch.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	95:5 (Ag:Cu)	Reeded	*Large Date* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1889-O Z1-B

Obverse: Large date. Portrait 2 with top-left wheat stalk extending to the middle of RI in PLURIBUS.
Reverse: Indented right foot of F in OF. Comb-like inner wing feathers. Raised lines, presumably representing feathers, between legs and above the intersection of the bundle of arrows and olive branch.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	95:5 (Ag:Cu)	Reeded	*Large Date* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1890-O Z1-B

Obverse: Large date. Left wheat stalk on Liberty's cap half-way up RI. Raised dine line 'spike' through BE in LIBERTY to right of R in PLURIBUS.
Reverse: Indented right foot of F in OF. Comb-like inner wing feathers. Raised lines, presumably representing feathers, between legs and above the intersection of the bundle of arrows and olive branch.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	95:5 (Ag:Cu)	Reeded	*Large Date* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1890-O
Z2-G

Obverse: 0 in date slightly high and far from 9. Star 1 close to neck. Star 13 close to 0. RT joined at base. No upper-left serif of Y.

Reverse: Large O mintmark. Very narrow gab between eagle's neck and right facing wing. Peripheral lettering imperfect, especially the S's.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	~80-83% Silver, 17-20% Copper	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: First documented in January 2025.

1890-CC
Z3-I

Obverse: Denticle gap right of center of upright of 1. I in PLURIBUS centered over denticle. Star 7 points to the top of the adjacent denticle.

Reverse: CC mintmark slopes right. O in ONE roughly centered over a denticle. Bold die scratches along right side of A in DOLLAR.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Reeded	*Ragged Breast* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1890-CC Z4-J

Obverse: Denticle gap centered below upright of 1. Denticle above I in PLURIBUS left of center. Star 7 points between the adjacent denticle. Rim cuds or joined denticles over UR.

Reverse: CC mintmark level. O in ONE roughly centered between denticles.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Reeded	*Ragged Breast* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Strike doubling prominent and distorts die features.

1891 Z1-C

Obverse: Missing 'M' initial at bottom of Liberty's neck. Insides of 8 rectangular. Large stars. Stars 12 and 13 close, and star 13 close to 1. The two wheat stalks are quite bold.

Reverse: Eagle feathers are diced rather than long and linear. The eagle's head looks swollen. Arrowheads are oversized. Stars are oversized. Lettering is noticeably incorrect.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: May have been made in Mexico per 1890s newspaper reports.

1892-O Z1-B

Obverse: Large date. Left wheat stalk on Liberty's cap almost touches R. Star 12 repunched.
Reverse: Indented right foot of F in OF. Comb-like inner wing feathers. Raised lines, presumably representing feathers, between legs and above the intersection of the bundle of arrows and olive branch.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	95:5 (Ag:Cu)	Reeded	*Large Date* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation. **Obv.** Crack at stars 1-4; **Rev.** crack below arrows, thru wreath, to CA, to rim.

Comments: None.

1892-O Z1-H

Obverse: Large date. Left wheat stalk on Liberty's cap almost touches R. Star 12 repunched.
Reverse: Second S in STATES below E at base. I in AMERICA centered over the top of the denticle. Narrow, small, and filled mintmark (possibly from strike doubling). 4 (not 5) diagonal lines representing feathers above the intersection of the arrow bundle and olive branch.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	95:5 (Ag:Cu)	Reeded	*Large Date* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Strike doubling a common feature from the 2 examples seen of this variety.

1897-O Z1-F

Obverse: Normal size date. Die polish lines across the fields. Weak portrait hair and cap details.
Reverse: C4 style reverse. STAT shows doubling. The O mintmark is left of center. Large M for Morgan in wreath bow. AT in STATES relatively close at base. Heavy die polishing. Tiny spikes protrude from the edge of the wreath and eagle design elements.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*Ragged Breast* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: XRF analysis found the planchet alloy to be 85% silver, 6.7% copper, and 6.2% tin.

1899-O Z1-B

Obverse: Large date. Diagonal indent on bottom loop of 8. Lateral indent on the inside of the top loop of the 8. Left wheat stalk on Liberty's cap half-way up RI.
Reverse: Indented right foot of F in OF. Comb-like inner wing feathers. Raised lines, presumably representing feathers, between legs and above the intersection of the bundle of arrows and olive branch.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	95:5 (Ag:Cu)	Reeded	*Large Date* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1900-O Z1-D

Obverse: Crude, engraved details overall. Smaller 1 in date. Poorly executed stars. Simple portrait details.
Reverse: Crude, engraved details overall. Lettering is smaller than the genuine. Wreath and eagle details are simple and plain.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Brass (est.)	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1900-O Z2-E

Obverse: 1 above 9 in date and close to denticles. Last 0 in date has a thin lower curl. Slightly wide stars. Stars 2 and 3 repunched. Upright of B between denticles.
Reverse: C4 style reverse. STAT shows doubling. The O mintmark is centered, and thick especially at the top and bottom curves. Large M for Morgan in wreath bow. AT in STATES relatively close at base.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon	Reeded	*Ragged Breast* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: None.

1901-O
Z1-F

Obverse: 9 lower than 1 and 0. 9 has a thin lower curve. 90 closer than 19 and 01. Slightly wide stars.
Reverse: C4 style reverse. STAT shows doubling. The O mintmark is left of center. Large M for Morgan in wreath bow. AT in STATES relatively close at base. Heavy die polishing. Tiny spikes protrude from the edge of the wreath and eagle design elements.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Billon (est.)	Reeded	*Ragged Breast* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation (est.).

Comments: None.

Transfer Dies

At the time of this publication, 39 different transfer die counterfeit Morgan dollar varieties have been documented. All but two varieties, 1890-O TD.1-TD.Q and 1900-S TD.5-TD.O are associated with the *Micro O* family. Thirty-seven varieties are associated with the *Micro O* family. All varieties were struck on high purity silver planchets, close to sterling silver.

Most varieties have been seen in all grades from Good to AU and MS. However, most seen are in Good to Very Good condition suggestive of widespread circulation.

None of these varieties are known counterstamped identifying them as counterfeit, probably attesting to their overall high-quality and not being scrutinized with regards to authenticity until the 21st century. However, one example from the *Micro O* family is reported as being engraved with a year from the early 1900s (exact year undocumented) indicating that they existed by or before that time.

Auction records and public sales information is abundant but inconsistent from one variety to the next. Unattributed varieties can be purchased at or near melt value, while attributed rarities in higher grade have sold for more than $500.

The transfer die variety images in this section are enlarged relative to the smaller size images of transfer die counterfeits in other sections of this publication. This was chosen due to the popularity of these types of counterfeits and the often-minute die marker differences between varieties. Attribution information, especially where there are shared dies between varieties, is taken from VAMWorld unless otherwise corrected by this author. Finally, the '# Reported' is merely an estimate as this author is not aware of any specific census effort being undertaken.

Meet the Family

'Micro O' Family

The *Micro O* family of counterfeit Morgan dollars received its nickname from the counterfeiter copying the reverse side of two 1899-O VAM 6 micro O host coins to create two counterfeit reverse dies, identified here as TD.A and TD.O. However, only five of the 37 counterfeit varieties known to this family employed the micro O dies, and yet it remains the diagnostic characteristic identifying these varieties as counterfeit.

This family created at least 19 obverse dies from seven different dates, 1893, 1894, 1896, 1897, 1900, 1901 and 1902. The selection of several different dates was probably intentional to make them pass more easily in circulation

Fifteen reverse dies were created from three hubs, C3, C4/C3 and C4. This resulted in 13 of the 37 varieties being anachronistic, meaning that the corresponding reverse die does not accurately

1902-O VAM 96 with the TD.O Micro O reverse.

match the obverse date. It is unlikely that these counterfeiters noticed or cared that they paired an obverse date with the wrong reverse hub given the subtle difference between these three hub types.

All varieties share the following die characteristics: (1) all are transfer dies (some have claimed that these dies were created from a casting process due to numerous dies exhibiting 'pitting'); (2) die details have rounded design elements; (3) the planchets are high-grade silver; and (4) only New Orleans mintmarks are known to be used.

This author also includes the three 'VNA' (VAM not-assigned) varieties, as identified from the VAMWorld website, as part of this *Micro O* family. Each of these three varieties share the same four die characteristics described above. This makes it unlikely that two separate and distinct counterfeiting groups were replicating the same counterfeiting process.

Based on XRF analysis, the planchets range from about 90% coin silver to upwards of 94% silver. Most examples are in the realm of 92.5% or sterling silver. Sterling silver was likely used on all varieties. The minor variability in XRF-reported silver content is expected. Some of the higher silver readings may be due to sweating the surface in a light acid to remove surface copper and allow the silver to show more prominently.

Most examples from this family are in grades VG or lower. A small proportion, maybe 5-10%, are in Fine to Extra Fine condition. Finally, a minor quantity, maybe 1-2%, are in AU or MS condition. The lower-grade examples may have been artificially circulated by the counterfeiters shortly after production, possibly via tumbling in a barrel with an added medium. In addition, many of these counterfeits just circulated heavily alongside their genuine counterparts because nobody at the time ever identified them as counterfeit.

This author estimates that the total mintage of these counterfeits may have been between one and two million pieces. This estimate is based on U.S. mint die life whereby 100,000 to 400,000 Morgan dollars were struck per die, with die life increasing over time (Herbert 2009). Therefore, if the counterfeiter's dies were similarly strong, then the 17 obverse dies and 15 reverse dies could have struck 1.5 to 1.7 million pieces.

The origin of these counterfeits remains a mystery. Several theories exist, as discussed below, as to when and where these were likely made. The earliest rumor of a reported example

Table 2.3. ***Micro O***

Date	VAM Variety	Obv.	Rev.	Hub
1900-O	VAM 48	TD.2	TD.D	C4/C3
1896-O	VAM 21	TD.1		
	VAM 27		TD.F	C3
	VAM 4		TD.A	C3
1902-O	VAM 3	TD.1		
1900-O	VAM 5	TD.1		
	VAM 52		TD.B	C3
	VAM 22C2		TD.C	C4
	VAM 59		TD.F	C3
	VAM 22C1		TD.G	C3
1902-O	VAM 67	TD.2		
	VAM 63		TD.B	C3
	VAM 101		TD.C	C4
	VAM 96		TD.O	C3
1901-O	VAM 42	TD.1		
	VAM 56		TD.B	C3
	VAM 44		TD.F	C3
	VAM 60		TD.G	C3
1893-O	VAM 9	TD.1	TD.L	C3
	VAM 8		TD.E	C3
	VAM 7		TD.J	C4/C3
	VAM 6		TD.H	C4
1894-O	VAM 13	TD.1		
1897-O	VAM 14	TD.2		
1896-O	VAM 25	TD.2		
	VAM 26		TD.J	C4/C3
1900-O	VAM 62	TD.3	TD.H	C4
	VAM 60		TD.I	C3
1897-O	VAM 13	TD.1		
1901-O	VAM 58	TD.2		
1901-O	VAM 61	TD.3	TD.C	C4
1901-O	VAM 67	TD.4		
1902-O	VAM 92	TD.3		
1896-O	VAM 30	TD.3	TD.K	C3
1894-O	VNA-B	TD.2	TD.N	C3
1894-O	VNA-A		TD.M	C3
1900-O	VNA-A	TD.4		C3

Known counterfeit Micro O family varieties (Baumgart 2018, VAMWorld 2024).

161 1900 Microscopic O. Very good, but very rare. Only two or three specimens known.

B. Max Mehl. June 17, 1947, lot 161.

came from a collection in Idaho dating back to about 1945 while the first documented sale is lot 161 from the June 1947 Mehl sale of the Will W. Neil collection (shown above). In 1963, three varieties, each sharing the same Micro O reverse, were published as authentic coins in Francis Klaes' *Die Varieties of Morgan Silver Dollars*. It was not until April 2005 that these pieces were officially declared as counterfeits (PCGS 2005). Since then, and as recently as 2025, 37 varieties have been identified as belonging to this family. This rate of discovery suggests that more varieties may be reported in the future.

Where, When, & Who?

There are varying theories as to where and when these counterfeit Morgan dollars were made, but our least certain idea is who made these.

Where

It is assumed that these counterfeits were made in the New Orleans area given that all documented examples have that mintmark. But copying a dozen or so New Orleans reverse dies did not limit this operation to the New Orleans area as New Orleans minted dollars, like any other mint, could and did circulate extensively. Therefore, one hypothesis is a domestic operation outside the New Orleans area, such as in the northeastern U.S. where counterfeiting had been active for decades.

New Orleans hypothesis. All the counterfeit coins from this family have a New Orleans mintmark. This could suggest that this operation was located in or near New Orleans where these coins actively circulated, and could easily be removed from circulation to copy for counterfeiting.

Overseas hypothesis. Few other locations have been floated around where these could have been made. Mexico is a contender because this could be where the silver originated and because Mexico was exporting silver coins, especially 8 reales and Morgan dollars to China in the 1930s. Some have thought Germany or the Soviet Union could be responsible given the high-quality workmanship, but the use of only New Orleans mintmarked coins diminishes this likelihood.

When?

It is generally agreed that the *Micro O* family of counterfeit Morgan dollars were produced during one of two time period. The strongest evidence comes from the 1900 to 1914 time period, but there are some limited indications that they could have been made between 1926 to 1940. These were almost certainly not made between 1915 and 1925 because the price of silver was high enough that such a counterfeiting endeavor would not have been financially viable.

1900-1914 hypothesis 1. In most counterfeit coin cases, including when transfer dies were made, the latest dated counterfeit coin in a family was generally produced within five years of the actual date that coin was minted. This is because counterfeiters preferred high-grade host-coins to copy to get as much detail as possible on the counterfeit. Also, since coins wear down over time, counterfeiters usually had to use a coin dated more recent in time which showed the most details. Yet, many O-mint Morgan dollars come weaker struck than Philadelphia counterparts, and maybe this counterfeiter chose O-mint coins to they would appear weaker and more circulated. This can best be addressed by a review of how many different counterfeit obverse dies were used for each date, and through an analysis of the 1899-O micro O VAM 6 host coin.

Nineteen obverse dies were used to create seven different dated counterfeits. In this case there is one known obverse die dated 1893 and 1894, two obverse dies dated 1897, three obverse dies dated 1896, 1900 and 1902, and four obverse dies dated 1901. There appears to be a clear preference for the later sequentially dated 1900, 1901 and 1902 dates. This suggests that this counterfeit operation was likely working close to this time. The three 1896 dies, and the absence of interim

obverse dies dated 1898 and 1899, is unexpected and hard to explain, but an 1899-O host-coin was used to create a counterfeit micro O reverse die.

All 1899-O micro O VAM 6 coins were placed into circulation, and were not stored in vaults. Most examples of this variety known today are found in lower grades, and are much rarer in higher grade. Therefore, because a higher-grade host-coin was used as the model for this counterfeit, it suggests this model coin was not in circulation very long before being used in the counterfeiting process (Carr 2013).

No pieces in this family are dated 1903 or 1904 despite New Orleans minting these coins. The lack of these dates from this family may not be unexpected. Most of the 1903-O and 1904-O mintage went directly into storage. Most of the 1903-O coins were later melted due to the Pittman Act of 1918. And most of the 1904-O pieces were released in 1962-64 (DeLorey 2014). Therefore, both these dates were rarely seen in circulation before 1905, and this may explain their absence from this counterfeit family.

No pieces in this family are dated 1921, or use the 1921 reverse hub, suggesting a pre-1921 date of origin.

The value of silver bullion at this time was low. Sterling silver planchets cost about 40 to 50 cents each. As such, it was economically feasible to counterfeit these coins using full-weight silver planchets.

The silver bullion may have originated from Mexico. It was easier to get Mexican silver before the Mexican Civil War as annual production in the U.S. dropped significantly by 1914 when export restrictions went into effect (DeLorey 2014), and lasted for several decades.

Copying certain reverse host coins and their corresponding hubs may also support an earlier counterfeiting period. This counterfeiter predominantly copied older host coins with C3 hubs (n=11; 73%). This could suggest that the later C4/C3 and C4 hub host coins were relatively new to circulation.

1900-1914 hypothesis 2. A second hypothesis is that the U.S. government found out about this counterfeiting scheme and then enacted the Pittman Act of 1918 to remove these counterfeits from circulation (Carr 2018). This hypothesis is dubious, at best, but it does allow for a brief summary of this Act, as explained below.

The Pittman Act served two purposes. First, it helped to prop-up the silver mining companies in the western U.S. But a good portion of the Act was written to secure the cooperation of those Western, silver mining state politicians in America's participation in WWI which might have been instrumental in an allied victory (Cochran 2013).

Under this Act, 270,232,722 silver dollars were converted into bullion, most of which were sold to Great Britain to pay off war debts. Subsequently, from 1920 to 1933, under this Act, 270,232,722 silver dollars were reminted from silver purchased from domestic silver mines.

Ultimately Britain was able to honor its silver certificates, preventing a banking collapse and revolution in India. The U.S. paid off some $200 million of its war debt from the sale of the silver. In addition, the American silver industry was able to use the government to short sell three years of post-war silver output at much higher wartime prices.

The Pittman Act was an emergency war-time measure, rather than a monetary measure. By those standards, it was a rousing success, basically saved the war for the Allies, with no loss to the government. As far as this Act may relate to the *Micro O* counterfeits, it is not really known if they were even made before this Act took effect. If these counterfeit dollars were made before the 1918 Pittman Act, a good majority of them probably ended up being melted down along with the rest of the U.S. silver dollars.

1926-1940 hypothesis. Another hypothesis, albeit not as strong as the 1900 to 1914 period, is that the Micro O counterfeits were made after the Pittman Act of 1918, and sometime between 1926 and 1940 when silver prices dropped again. The Post-Pittman Act idea is based on the thought that these counterfeits are relatively common today and so they must not have been around during the Act's massive melting. In all likelihood, the reason these counterfeits are relatively common today is because they were not officially identified as counterfeits until 2005. Therefore, there was no reason to systematically remove them from circulation shortly after they were produced as well they were apparently pro-

duced in large numbers.

Who?

It is unknown who was responsible for making these counterfeits as apparently no one was caught or identified in this counterfeiting scheme.

A strong hypothesis is that these counterfeits were produced by an organization with the skills and financial means to create these high-quality dies, acquire a significant amount of silver, and access to minting equipment to mass produce these dollars, and could successfully launder them all. An organized crime group certainly fits this model.

2 Families, 1 Counterfeiter?

Several counterfeit Morgan dollar operations are known to have made both hand-made and transfer dies. Thus, it is not necessarily unreasonable to consider that the *Micro O* counterfeiters could have been responsible for making the *Large Date* counterfeits.

First, there are major similarities between these two families including counterfeiting a variety of dates with only 'O' mintmarks, and using sterling silver planchet alloys. Taken together, these factors significantly limit the number of possible sophisticated counterfeiting operations at the time. In addition, no other counterfeit operations are known to have made counterfeit Morgan dollars to these specifications. It seems too coincidental that two separate counterfeit Morgan dollar operations were striking high-grade silver counterfeits in and around the same location at roughly the same time. This coincidence is hard to ignore.

If this hypothesis is correct, the following scenario may have unfolded. The *Large Date* family was in production from about 1897 to 1899. This family quickly failed due to the subtle difference in their dies being noticed as well as their high grade when freshly minted. Ultimately, this no doubt made these counterfeits easily noticeable and detectable.

This operation quickly learned from their mistakes and completely changed their counterfeiting process. Their later dies copied real coins from circulation, they used all different dates from those of the *Large Date* family, and struck counterfeit coins that did not stand out. This latest operation probably began striking counterfeits around the year 1900 and did so for several years. The public never identified these pieces as counterfeits, which in turn allowed this operation to grow to make more dies and strike more counterfeit coins over time.

Distribution and Laundering

The *Micro O* counterfeits only appear to have been made for domestic distribution, thus making it quicker to launder. This counterfeiting organization may have learned from the prior production of the *Large Date* family, which may have given this group some instructions on how to handle distribution. The mechanism by which the public received these would have to be one that is difficult to report. A small group of well-circulated counterfeits in a bag of genuine coins, or a mob-run slot machine ring, would not have raised suspicion, whereas a group of higher-grade pieces, such as those from the *Large Date* family, may have raised suspicion.

Collectability

The Morgan dollar collecting community is quite large, and a subset of those enthusiasts collect VAM varieties, both genuine and counterfeit. The difficulty in finding *Micro O* family counterfeit varieties, including makes assembling a set fun, competitive, and challenging.

It is conservatively estimated that at least 2,000 examples between all varieties still exist. In the author's experience, about half of the varieties are easy to moderately difficult to acquire. However, about half of these varieties appear to be very rare.

There is debate over the authenticity of 1896-O VAM 22. Some claim it to be associated with the *Micro O* family. Yet, it does not share a die with any other variety, and this is unusual because the only other isolated die pair is found on 1896-O VAM 30. A study by NGC (2015) found that the silver fineness of four examples was "between .8956 and .9066, with an average silver purity of .9006". Based on these results, NGC found this variety to be genuine, and 1896-O VAM 22 is not being documented as a counterfeit in this publication.

'Micro O' Family
Obverse Quick Finder Pick-Up Points

1893-O

TD.1
(VAMs 6, 7, 8, 9)

Raised bar above right side of B.

1894-O

TD.1
(VAM 13)

Parallel spikes protruding from center of left side of Liberty's neck. Small raised dot right of 4.

Raised dot in left field equidistant from star 5 and Liberty.

TD.2
(VAMs VNA-A, VNA-B)

Date left of normal lateral position and different position than TD.1 (VAM 13).

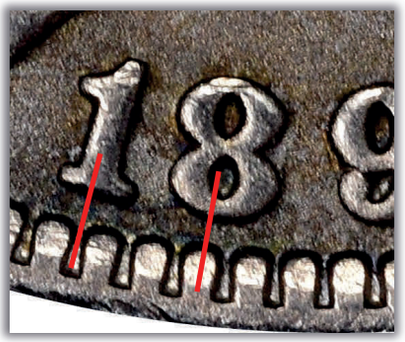
Raised lines protruding from denticles above and immediately right of B, below star 4 and above star 8.

Deformed denticles between stars 3 and 4.

'Micro O' Family
Obverse Quick Finder Pick-Up Points

1896-O

TD.1
(VAMs 4, 21, 27)



Dentil gap under upright of 1. Dentil left of center of 8.

TD.2
(VAMs 25, 26)

Dentil gap under upright of 1. Dentil centered below 8.

Raised dot between star 5 and denticles.

TD.3
(VAM 30)

Dentil gap under upright of 1. Dentil centered below 8.

1900-O

TD.1
(VAMs 5, 22C1, 22C2, 52, 59)

Three die scratches extending from rim to between UM in UNUM.

TD.2
(VAM 48)

Dentil gap centered below upright of 1.

TD.3
(VAMs 60, 62)

Dentil gap left of center of the upright of 1. Raised casting dots below and right of 9.

TD.4
(VAM VNA-A)

Die crack between 90.

Tiny die dot lower-right of I.

'Micro O' Family
Obverse Quick Finder Pick-Up Points

1901-O

TD.1
(VAMs 42, 44, 56, 60)

Dentil right of center under first 1 in date.

TD.2
(VAM 58)

Dentil centered below upright of first 1. Numerous casting flaws, especially a large one above the Phrygian cap below the dot.

TD.3
(VAM 61)

Dentil gap centered below upright of first 1.

TD.4
(VAM 67)

Dentil centered below upright of first 1. Date slanted left. Die chip on left edge of I in PLURIBUS.

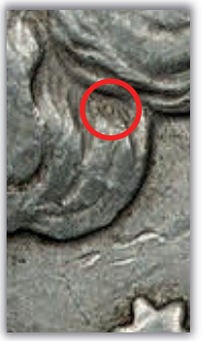
1902-O

TD.1
(VAM 3)

Dentil gap centered below upright of 1 in date.

TD.2
(VAMs 63, 67, 96, 101)

Die gouge in denticles below bottom point of neck. Dentil gap slightly right of center of upright of 1 in date; not as far right as 1902-O TD.3 (VAM 92).



Die dot in lower hair.

TD.3
(VAM 92)

Dentil gap below right edge of upright of 1 in date.

'Micro O' Family
Reverse Quick Finder Pick-Up Points

TD.A (C3)

1896-O VAM 4
1900-O VAM 5
1902-O VAM 3

Micro O mintmark tilted right.
Small indent may show left of mintmark.

TD.O (C3)

1901-O VAM 42
1902-O VAM 96

Micro O mintmark tilted right.

Heavy raised dots around wreath leaves above AR.

TD.B (C3)

1900-O VAM 52
1901-O VAM 56
1902-O VAM 63

Bulge at bottom of leaves above AR.

Very high mintmark.

TD.C (C4)

1900-O VAM 22C2
1901-O VAM 61, 67
1902-O VAM 92, 101

Filled E in WE.

Raised dot above right wreath and below arrows.

Left tilted mintmark, and right of center.

TD.D (C4/C3)

1896-O VAM 21
1900-O VAM 48

Raised dot left of R in DOLLAR.

Very high centered and upright mintmark.

'Micro O' Family
Reverse Quick Finder Pick-Up Points

TD.E (C3)

1893-O VAM 8

Doubled denticle below upright of L2 in DOLLAR.

Mintmark is a little high, upright and slightly right.

TD.F (C3)

1896-O VAM 27
1900-O VAM 59
1901-O VAM 44

Die crack along top of TED.

Low O/CC mintmark tilted slightly right. Thick sides on O.

TD.G (C3)

1900-O VAM 22C1
1901-O VAM 60
1902-O VAM 67

Indent on back of top arrowhead.

Medium mintmark with slight tilt to right. Thin sides on O.

TD.H (C4)

1893-O VAM 6
1894-O VAM 13
1896-O VAM 25

1897-O VAM 14
1900-O VAM 62

Die crack thru middle of ED and eagle's wing; may only look like a raised bar in front of D.

Low mintmark tilted slightly left.

Raised bar above first T in TRUST.

'Micro O' Family
Reverse Quick Finder Pick-Up Points

TD.I (C3)

1897-O VAM 13
1900-O VAM 60

1901-O VAM 58

Medium mintmark centered and slightly high.

Raised casting flaws top-right of D in UNITED, left of S, top-right of T in STATES, and elsewhere.

TD.J (C4/C3)

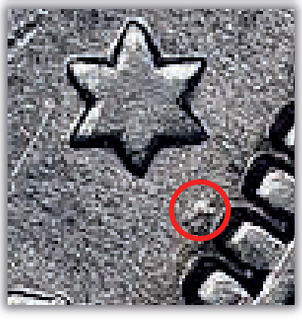
1893-O VAM 7
1896-O VAM 26

2 olive reverse.

Normal mintmark set slightly high and centered.

TD.K (C3)

1896-O VAM 30



Medium mintmark set slightly high.

Raised casting dots below DO and LL and in R of DOLLAR, the right star, and right of U in UNITED.

TD.L (C3)

1893-O VAM 9*

Die gouge in U. Spike thru left star. Slanted die gouge between E & D of ONE DOLLAR.

Mintmark set high, slightly to right and upright.

*(Images from VAMWorld)

'Micro O' Family
Reverse Quick Finder Pick-Up Points

TD.M
(C3)

1894-O VAM VNA-A
1900-O VAM VNA-A

Deformed rim below AR.

Normal mintmark and position.

Raised dot lower-right of E in STATES.

TD.N
(C3)

1894-O VAM VNA-B

Raised dash between R in DOLLAR and star.

Mintmark very high and left, and die defect in denticles below O in DOLLAR.

'Micro O' Family
Obverse Quick Finder Pick-Up Points

1897-O

TD.1
(VAMs 13 and 14)

No photo's of 1897-O TD.1-TD.I (VAM 13) or 1897-O TD.2-TDH (VAM 14) were available to study or include in this publication. Based on the description of both varieties from the VAMWorld website and Leroy Van Allen notes from the years of discovery, there are two different obverse dies.

1890-O
TD.1-TD.Q

Obverse: Angled denticles between US. Possible raised dot on the outer-left side of star 6. Top serif of 1 seems slightly longer than on the genuine coin.

Reverse: Mintmark just right of center. Signs of clashing. Weak outer leaves on left side of wreath.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Coin silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: This variety does not match a known 1890-O Morgan VAM and instead may have used 2 different host coins.

1893-O
TD.1-TD.H

Obverse: Date at normal position. Tiny, raised bar between denticles and B in PLURIBUS. Raised lumps above U2 in PLURIBUS. Raised dot at denticles between stars 2 and 3.

Reverse: C4 eagle. O mintmark tilted slightly left (slightly lower than 1893-O VAM 7). Raised lumps right of D in UNITED. Raised dot above olive. Double vertical lines at top of eagle's right wing below-S1.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
More than 20 50-100 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	**Obv.** Later die state than 1893-O VAM 8.

Comments: Discovered by Ben Wengel in 2014. Also known as VAM 6.

1893-O
TD.1-TD.J

Obverse: Date at normal position. Tiny raised lumps at denticles above BU in PLURIBUS. Raised dot at denticles between stars 2 and 3.

Reverse: C4 eagle. C3 two olive reverse. O mintmark slightly higher than 1893-O VAM 6. No lumps right of D in UNITED.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
5-15 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Daniel Carr in February 2015. Also known as VAM 7.

1893-O
TD.1-TD.E

Obverse: Date at normal position. Tiny, raised bar between denticles and B in PLURIBUS.

Reverse: Normal C3 eagle. O mintmark set a little high, upright, and slightly right. Double denticles below E and D in UNITED, the second L in DOLLAR, and the right star. Both stems of wreath ribbons unusually thin.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
5-15 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	**Obv.** Earlier die state than 1893-O VAM 6.

Comments: Discovered by Daniel Carr in December 2015. Also known as VAM 8.

1893-O
TD.1-TD.L

Obverse: Date at normal position. Tiny, raised bar between denticles and B in PLURIBUS.
Reverse: Normal C3 eagle. Mintmark set high, slightly to right and upright. Die gouge in U. Spike thru left star. Slanted die gouge between E & D of ONE DOLLAR.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Daniel Carr in 2021. Also known as VAM 9.

1894-O
TD.1-TD.H

Obverse: Date in normal, lateral position. Die chips at bottom of star 5.
Reverse: C4 eagle. O mintmark tilted slightly left (slightly lower than 1893-O VAM 7). Raised lumps right of D in UNITED. Raised dot above olive. Double vertical lines at top of eagle's right wing below-S1.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
20-40 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Ben Wengel in March 2016. Also known as VAM 13.

1894-O
TD.2-TD.M

Obverse: Date left of normal lateral position. No significant die doubling on the digits. Fine die chips between stars 1 and 2. Raised bars and roughness on denticles above star 7 to E PLUR.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Eagle's head, neck, breast & talons flatly struck. Small raised dot left of A and below E in STATES, and another between the bottom of W and E in motto. Doubled denticles above SO.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
5-15 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: 180 reeds (181 is correct). Discovered by Dan Carr in March 2017. Also known as VAM VNA-A.

1894-O
TD.2-TD.N

Obverse: Date left of normal lateral position. No significant die doubling on the digits. Fine die chips between stars 1 and 2. Raised bars and roughness on denticles above star 7 to E PLUR.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark placed very high and left. Die defect between denticles below left side of O in DOLLAR. Raised dash between R in DOLLAR and star. Die scratches around AM to wreath.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
5-15 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev.** Clashed lips outline at wreath. Die crack through R in AMERICA.

Comments: Discovered by Daniel Carr in 2017. Also known as VAM VNA-B.

1896-O
TD.1-TD.A

Obverse:	Date in normal lateral position, but slightly low. Single line at base of top cotton leaf. Jagged depression below eye. Rounded edges where design, date and stars meet the fields.
Reverse:	C3 eagle. Micro O set slightly high, centered with right tilt from 1899-O VAM 6 mint die.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
200-500 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Francis Klaes in June 1963. Also known as VAM 4.

1896-O
TD.1-TD.D

Obverse:	Date in normal lateral position, but slightly low. Single line at base of top cotton leaf. Jagged depression below eye. Rounded edges where design, date and stars meet the fields.
Reverse:	C4 eagle. C3 shallow extra olive to the right of the olive connected to branch. Very high, centered, upright O mintmark. Raised bar left of R in DOLLAR.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
50-100 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by John Roberts in January 2006. Also known as VAM 21.

1896-O
TD.1-TD.F

Obverse: Date in normal lateral position, but slightly low. Single line at base of top cotton leaf. Jagged depression below eye. Rounded edges where design, date and stars meet the fields.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O, centered, upright mintmark using a 1900-O/CC VAM 11 mint die. Die crack through TED. Pitting all over surfaces.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
30-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Ben Wengel in 2011. Also known as VAM 27.

1896-O
TD.2-TD.H

Obverse: Date slightly low at left edge of normal lateral position. RTY shallow with rounded edges. Two raised dots in front of denticles above star 5.

Reverse: C4 eagle. O mintmark tilted slightly left. Raised lumps right of D. Raised dot above olive. Double vertical lines at top of eagle's right wing below-S1.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
30-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Brian Raines in May 2010. Also known as VAM 25.

1896-O
TD.2-TD.J

Obverse: Date slightly low at left edge of normal lateral position. RTY shallow with rounded edges. Two raised dots in front of denticles above star 5.

Reverse: C4 eagle. C3 two olive reverse. O mintmark slightly higher than 1893-O VAM 6. No lumps right of D in UNITED.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
5-15 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Ben Wengel in January 2011. Also known as VAM 26. This is a composite image.

1896-O
TD.3-TD.K

Obverse: Date set low at lateral position. Die scratch inside star 7, and outside-right upper loop of star 8.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark. Fine die crack at top of ERI in AMERICA. Raised lumps below DOLL and right star near denticles.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
25-50 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Brian Raines on June 12, 2014. Also known as VAM 30.

1897-O
TD.1-TD.I

No Image Available
At Time of Publication

Obverse:	"Numerous raised rough casting flaws at the top periphery at E, I, right U and right dot. The obverse was possibly a copy of a VAM 6 or 7 near date genuine coin." (VAMWorld, 2025)
Reverse:	C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark, centered and slightly high. Numerous raised dots above ND in UNITED, ST in STATES, M and R in AMERICA, LLA in DOLLAR, and O in ONE.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
5-15 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered in 2016. Also known as VAM 13.

1897-O
TD.2-TD.H

No Image Available
At Time of Publication

Obverse:	"Near date slightly tilted. Large area of raised casting flaws left of cap fold. Other raised smaller casting flaws were left of N i UUM and right of cotton boll." (VAMWorld, 2025)
Reverse:	C4 eagle. O mintmark tilted slightly left. Raised lumps right of D. Raised dot above olive. Double vertical lines at top of eagle's right wing below-S1.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
5-15 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered in 2018. Also known as VAM 14. NGC conducted metal analysis reporting metal content of 93.42% silver and 6.13% copper.

1900-O
TD.1-TD.A

Obverse: Date set much further left than normal. Three long die scratches from rim between UM; two go over top-left serif of M.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Micro O set slightly high, centered with right tilt using an 1899-O VAM 6 mint die.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
250-500 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Francis Klaes in June 1963. Also known as VAM 5.

1900-O
TD.1-TD.G

Obverse: Date set much further left than normal. Three long die scratches from rim between UM; two go over top-left serif of M.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark with slight tilt to the right. Indent on back of top arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
100-250 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered in June 2005. Also known as VAM 22C1.

1900-O
TD.1-TD.C

Obverse: Date set much further left than normal. Three long die scratches from rim between UM; two go over top-left serif of M.

Reverse: C4 eagle. Medium O mintmark set high and right with slight left tilt. Filled 'e' in 'We'. This is possibly a copy of the 1903-O VAM-8 reverse.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
20-40 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered in June 2005. Also known as VAM 22C2.

1900-O
TD.1-TD.B

Obverse: Date set much further left than normal. Three long die scratches from rim between UM; two go over top-left serif of M.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark set very high, centered, upright near wreath bow. Raised area along wreath above AR. Die gouges around UNITED.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
30-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by BJV in March 2009. Also known as VAM 52.

1900-O
TD.1-TD.F

Obverse: Date set much further left than normal. Three long die scratches from rim between UM; two go over top-left serif of M.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O, centered, upright mintmark using a 1900-O/CC VAM 11 mint die. Die crack through TED. Pitting all over surfaces.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
15-25 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Paul Vandenberg in 2014. Also known as VAM 59.

1900-O
TD.2-TD.D

Obverse: Date at left side of normal position. 1 doubled below upper crossbar. Strongly doubled right edge of cotton leaves.

Reverse: C4 eagle. C3 shallow extra olive to the right of the olive connected to branch. Very high, centered, upright O mintmark. Raised bar left of R in DOLLAR..

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
50-100 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Eric Justice in June 2006. Also known as VAM 48.

1900-O
TD.3-TD.I

Obverse: Slanted date in normal lateral position with 1 closest to rim. Raised dots around 9. Short raised line inside right serif of U in PLURIBUS.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark, centered and slightly high. Numerous raised dots above ND in UNITED, ST in STATES, M and R in AMERICA, LLA in DOLLAR, and O in ONE.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
15-30 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered in 2015. Also known as VAM 60. The so-called 'VAM 66' is actually just an earlier die state of VAM 60.

1900-O
TD.3-TD.H

Obverse: Slanted date in normal lateral position with 1 closest to rim. Raised dots around 9. Short raised line inside right serif of U in PLURIBUS.

Reverse: C4 eagle. O mintmark tilted slightly left (slightly lower than 1893-O VAM 7). Raised lumps right of D in UNITED. Raised dot above olive. Double vertical lines at top of eagle's right wing below-S1.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
10-25 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Brady Johnson in November 2015. Also known as VAM 62.

1900-O

TD.4-TD.M

Obverse: Date near lateral position. Tiny raised dots between the bottom of 19 and 00. Tiny raised dot right of I. Liberty portrait noticeably rounded where it met the field.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Eagle's head, neck, breast & talons flatly struck. Small raised dot left of A and below E in STATES, and another between the bottom of W and E in motto. Doubled denticles above SO.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
10-25 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Obv.** die crack at bottom of all digits.

Comments: Discovered by Brady Johnson in 2017. Also known as VAM VNA-A.

1900-S

TD.5-TD.P

Obverse: Doubled ear on left inside and right outside. Line of raised metal lower-right of star 1 towards Liberty's neck.

Reverse: "C3 reverse. Normal S-mintmark position with slight shift right. Doubled bottom of E DOLLA. Vertical line inside U of UNITED. Raised dot below n of In and slight dot lower right of F in OF plus between AM of AMERICA. No polishing lines on eagle or wreaths." (VamWorld 2025)

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
25-50 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	Singleton	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Larry Beck in August 2016. Also known as VAM 25.

1901-O
TD.1-TD.O

Obverse: Date in normal lateral position. Partially filled lower-loops of 9 and 0. Some pitting present.
Reverse: C3 eagle. Micro O set slightly high, centered with right tilt using an 1899-O VAM 6 mint die. Heavy raised dots around wreath leaves above AR. On A1, middle of left upright and left foot of right base indented.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
10-25 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered in June 2007. Also known as VAM 42. This is a composite image.

1901-O
TD.1-TD.F

Obverse: Date in normal lateral position. Partially filled lower-loops of 9 and 0. Some pitting present.
Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O, centered, upright mintmark using a 1900-O/CC VAM 11 mint die. Die crack through TED. Pitting all over surfaces.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
30-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered in June 2008. Also known as VAM 44.

1901-O
TD.1-TD.B

Obverse: Date in normal lateral position. Partially filled lower-loops of 9 and 0. Some pitting present.
Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark set very high, centered, upright near wreath bow. Raised area along wreath above AR. Die gouges around UNITED.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
30-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Ben Wengel in May 2010. Also known as VAM 56.

1901-O
TD.1-TD.G

Obverse: Date in normal lateral position. Partially filled lower-loops of 9 and 0. Some pitting present.
Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark with slight tilt to the right. Indent on back of top arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
30-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Brian Raines on March 14, 2011. Also known as VAM 60.

1901-O
TD.2-TD.I

Obverse: Numerous raised dots and flaws near star 2, U and US in PLURIBUS, top of Phrygian cap, top-left cotton leaf, the hair back of the ear, and below the jaw.
Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark, centered and slightly high. Numerous raised dots above ND in UNITED, ST in STATES, M and R in AMERICA, LLA in DOLLAR, and O in ONE.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
30-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Brian Raines in September 2010. Also known as VAM 58.

1901-O
TD.3-TD.C

Obverse: Date low. 1_01 doubled in date. Line in ear. Raised bar at designer initial 'M'.
Reverse: C4 eagle. Medium O mintmark set high and right with slight left tilt. Filled 'e' in 'We'.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
10-25 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Brian Raines on March 9, 2012. Also known as VAM 61.

1901-O
TD.4-TD.C

No Image Available
At Time of Publication

Obverse:	Slanted date at right edge of normal lateral position. First 1 higher than second 1. Die chip on left upright of I in PLURIBUS. Raised lines in field above stars 5 and 6.
Reverse:	C4 eagle. Medium O mintmark set high and right with slight left tilt. Filled 'e' in 'We'.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
5-15 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Brian Raines in 2013. Also known as VAM 67.

1902-O
TD.1-TD.A

Obverse:	Date at left side of normal lateral position. Broad raised dot at lower inside of ear. Fine, scattered, raised dots across obverse.
Reverse:	C3 eagle. Micro O set slightly high, centered with right tilt using an 1899-O VAM 6 mint die.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
500—1,000 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Francis Klaes in June 1963, but known to exist from a collection left by an Idaho collector who died in 1945. Also known as VAM 3. At least one example is known in GSA cellophane packaging.

1902-O
TD.2-TD.B

Obverse: Low date set further left than normal. Pitting around motto letters and stars. Die gouge between denticles at bottom-end where Liberty's neck comes to a point.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark set very high, centered, upright near wreath bow. Raised area along wreath above AR. Die gouges around UNITED.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
50-100 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Brian Raines in October 2009. Also known as VAM 63.

1902-O
TD.2-TD.G

Obverse: Low date set further left than normal. Pitting around motto letters and stars. Die gouge between denticles at bottom-end where Liberty's neck comes to a point.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Medium O mintmark with slight tilt to the right. Indent on back of top arrowhead.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
100-250 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	**a)** Prime? **b)** **Rev**. faint die crack at top of STAT.

Comments: Discovered in December 2009. Also known as VAM 67.

1902-O
TD.2-TD.O

Obverse: Low date set further left than normal. Pitting around motto letters and stars. Die gouge between denticles at bottom-end where Liberty's neck comes to a point.

Reverse: C3 eagle. Micro O set slightly high, centered with right tilt using an 1899-O VAM 6 mint die. Heavy raised dots around wreath leaves above AR. On A1, middle of left upright and left foot of right base indented.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
50-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Rick DeSanctis in 2015. Also known as VAM 96.

1902-O
TD.2-TD.C

Obverse: Low date set further left than normal. Pitting around motto letters and stars. Die gouge between denticles at bottom-end where Liberty's neck comes to a point.

Reverse: C4 eagle. Medium O mintmark set high and right with slight left tilt. Filled 'e' in 'We'.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
Less than 5	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered in October 2022 by Jonnie Durham. Also known as VAM 101. This is a composite image.

1902-O
TD.3-TD.C

Obverse: Digits in date doubled. Raised, diagonal die scratch from bottom of 2 to denticle.
Reverse: C4 eagle. Medium O mintmark set high and right with slight left tilt. Filled 'e' in 'We'.

# Reported	Planchet	Edge	Affiliation	Die States
30-75 (est.)	Sterling silver	Reeded	*Micro O* Family	Prime. Normal die rotation.

Comments: Discovered by Daniel Carr in January 2014. Also known as VAM 92.

Casts

Cast counterfeit Morgan dollars are fairly common. Most dates and mintmarks have been seen. Nearly all examples were cast in white or 'pot' metal, while a low proportion have been seen in silver or brass. The quality of most extant examples is usually fairly poor, but some are higher quality. Some environmentally damaged Morgan dollars, such as fire damaged coins, are occasionally misidentified as casts.

A handful of examples exist counterstamped in a way that identifies them as counterfeit, such as the 1891-S example shown below. Rarer still are the molds used to make cast counterfeit Morgan dollars, such as the reverse shown here.

Hundreds, if not more than 1,000 cast counterfeit Morgan dollars still exist. This availability of pieces has allowed for sufficient pricing and value data. Most examples can be acquired for less than $10, but higher-quality pieces may sell for as much as $25 to $50.

Reverse-half of Morgan Dollar counterfeit mold.

High-quality cast 1891-S Morgan dollar counterstamped COUNTERFEIT.

Peace

Authentic Coin Overview

1921-1935 • Philadelphia, San Francisco, Denver Mints

The Peace dollar was first minted in December 1921 in Philadelphia with a little more than one million produced. It was coined annually through 1928. Mintages were quite strong through 1926 but were reduced in 1927 and 1928 after the Pittman Act requirements were met in 1928. This is why no Peace dollars were minted between 1929 and 1933.

Coining resumed in 1934 as a result of a congressional act requiring the Mint to purchase large quantities of domestic silver at a time when the price of silver was at a historic low. The Mints gained a large profit in seigniorage. A little more than 3.5 million Peace dollars were struck in 1934 and 1935. Production ceased after 1935 due to a lack of commercial demand to produce more in 1936.

Peace Dollar, high relief (1921 to 1922)

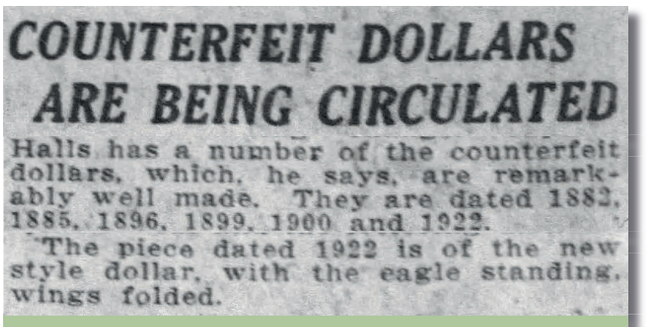
Peace Dollar, low relief (1922 to 1935)

The Counterfeiters

Deputy Sheriff Ajax complained that he burned his hand picking up a counterfeit dollar hot from a mold when a party of which he was one broke into a room here and arrested Robert Taylor and Dan Dearth.
Statesman Journal, January 20, 1924

Silver dollar counterfeiting was a nearly constant problem in the U.S. for half a century between the 1880s through the early 1930s. When the Peace dollar started to be minted, it is assumed that counterfeiters quickly started making them. However, reports from this era often just talk of 'counterfeit silver dollars' in circulation without clearly discerning whether it was the earlier Morgan or new Peace type or describing dates. Counterfeit Morgan dollars continued to be made and put into circulation, but the true scope of Peace dollar counterfeiting, at least based on written historical records, is harder to establish with great confidence.

The earliest confirmed report found of counterfeit Peace dollars in circulation is not until March 29, 1924 as described in *The Star Press.* These counterfeits were all casts, as was common for this time.



COUNTERFEIT DOLLARS ARE BEING CIRCULATED

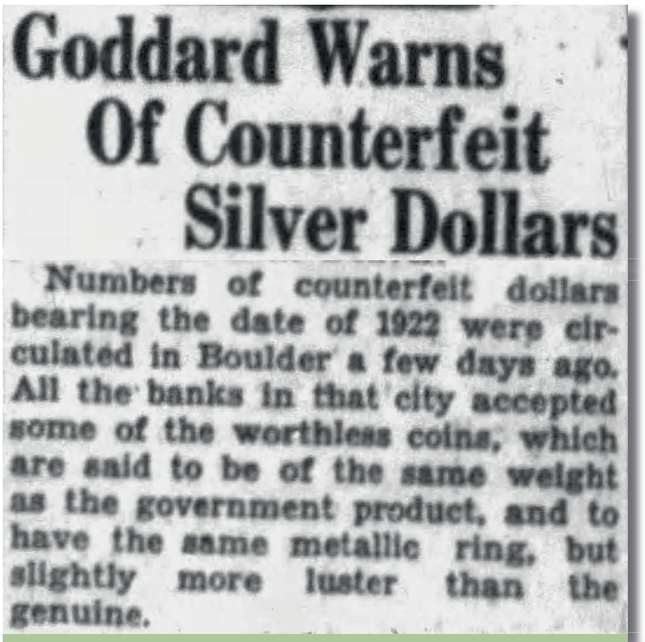
Halls has a number of the counterfeit dollars, which, he says, are remarkably well made. They are dated 1882, 1885, 1896, 1899, 1900 and 1922.

The piece dated 1922 is of the new style dollar, with the eagle standing, wings folded.

The Star Press. March 29, 1924.

Cast silver dollar counterfeiting operations continued to be reported through the 1920s with little distinction regarding dollar design type.

The Great Depression era did not stop silver dollar counterfeiting, but it does not seem to have accelerated reports from preceding years. Peace dollar counterfeits appear to be reported with slightly greater frequency relative to the preceding decade, such as the report in the *Fort Collins Coloradoan* on September 29, 1931. Another notable account from this period comes from the October 5, 1932, *The Oakland Post Enquirer*, whereby a mother temporarily employed her 9-year-old daughter to pass two counterfeit silver dollars she inadvertently received in change and could not afford to take such a financial loss.



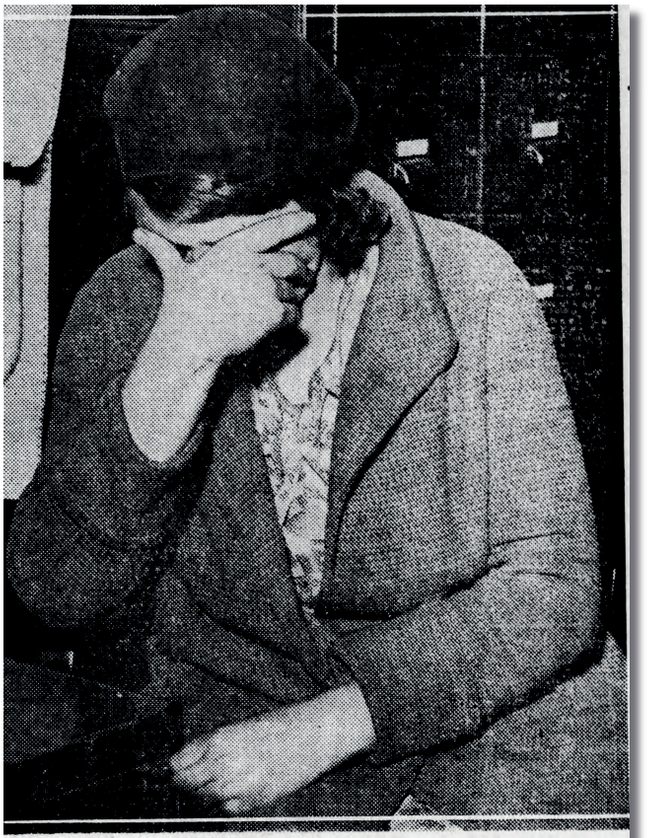
Goddard Warns Of Counterfeit Silver Dollars

Numbers of counterfeit dollars bearing the date of 1922 were circulated in Boulder a few days ago. All the banks in that city accepted some of the worthless coins, which are said to be of the same weight as the government product, and to have the same metallic ring, but slightly more luster than the genuine.

Fort Collins Coloradoan. September 29, 1931.

The Peace dollar stopped being minted after 1935, but examples continued to circulate for decades thereafter. Furthermore, standard 90% silver fractional coinage continued to be minted and circulated through 1964 until clad coinage replaced them in 1965. The continued circulation of silver dollars did not stop counterfeiters from continuing to produce and circulate them as well. For example, there are accounts of counterfeit silver dollars, including counterfeit Peace dollars being made and circulated as late as 1964. One such report comes from *The La Crosse Tribune* on January 10, 1964.

All of the reviewed newspaper reports between 1921 and 1935, and even years later, describing counterfeit silver dollars, and especially counterfeit Peace dollars, discuss cast counterfeits and none were said to be die struck.



MRS. MAE SCHRODER, 28, who is held for investigation in Berkeley city jail in connection with asserted attempts of a 9-year-old girl to pass counterfeit dollars at Berkeley stores. —Post-Enquirer photo.

The Oakland Post Enquirer. October 5, 1932.

Counterfeit Silver Dollars Are Reported

Silver dollars, claimed by a police officer to be counterfeit, appeared twice Thursday in La Crosse.

A city police officer said a 1921 dollar had come into the possession of Ann Scanlon, 919 Market St., and a 1922 dollar turned up at the Standard Oil station at 10th and Main Streets.

The La Crosse Tribune. January 10, 1964.

The Counterfeits

Contemporary counterfeit Peace dollars made for circulation are rarely encountered. The majority are casts, while die struck counterfeits are essentially unheard of and are limited to transfer dies.

It is also worth mentioning that there were die struck counterfeit Peace dollars made after Peace dollars left circulation around 1965, and these were intentionally made to defraud the numismatic marketplace. Many of these have been made since the year 2000, and originate from places like China.

Transfer Dies

Transfer die struck contemporary counterfeit Peace dollars are extremely rare, and so far, only one example has been documented, as shown to the right.

The numismatic value of transfer die counterfeit Peace dollars is unknown since none have knowingly sold in the numismatic marketplace.

1922
TD.1-TD.A

Comments: Weak transfer die impression, especially the reverse. No visible die markers present. Weak reeded edge. Weighs 24.38 grams. Struck on a brass planchet.

Casts

No die struck contemporary counterfeit Peace dollars made for circulation have been documented. The only contemporary counterfeit Peace dollars so far documented are casts, and those are rarely encountered. The casts have not been metallurgically studied but are thought to be base metal alloys.

It is worth mentioning that there are die struck counterfeit Peace dollars made after Peace dollars left circulation around 1965, and these were intentionally made to defraud the numismatic marketplace.

The numismatic value of these casts in the current market is uncertain. It is estimated that values could range from $15 to $40 each, and possibly more given overall rarity.

1934-S
Cast

Comments: White metal. Weight is 28.74 grams (2 grams more than genuine).